

Students Not As Political As They Wanna Be

OPINIONS/3

The MWC Campus Remembers A Beloved Professor



FEATURES/4

Men's Soccer Comes To The End Of The Road



SPORTS/6

Old School Powerhouse, RUN DMC, Do Their Thing At MWC



ENTERTAINMENT/8

# Mary Washington The BULLET

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Mary Washington College's Award-Winning Newspaper

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## Student House Burns During Thanksgiving

By Jenine M. Zimmers

Bullet Associate Editor

This past Thanksgiving, six Mary Washington students were thankful to be alive after a fire destroyed their home on Princess Anne Street.

Fire department officials have not yet determined the cause of the fire which burned for an estimated two hours on Nov. 25. According to senior Mike DePinto, a resident of the home, the cause was an explosion which may have resulted from a faulty gas line or furnace.

"Basically, we've got nothing at all," DePinto said. "We're six kids trying to get by day-by-day."

The six students lived in two three-bedroom apartments above a leather shop on Princess Anne Street. Everything in the apartment was reduced to ashes or badly burned and melted from smoke and heat.

"You can see straight through to my room," said sophomore John Gilreath, resident, as he pointed to a half-demolished wall which once separated two bedrooms. Inside the house, blackened posters covered the walls, and light switches looked like dripping plastic.

The force of the initial explosion blew senior Chris Bagley's bed across his room. The remains, only the frame, rest in an entirely new location. Bagley lost his pet iguana, Jose Cuelvo, in the fire. Gilreath lost his pet fish. A small piece of the fish tank, the only remains, now lies in a pile of rubble on the front lawn.

Senior Todd Hamlin, another resident, was the first to find out about the fire. The students' landlady, Dorie Eglevski, called Hamlin at his New Jersey home on Thanksgiving.

Hamlin said Eglevski called him from North Carolina, where she had heard about the fire. She did not know many details.

"She said, 'I'll call you Saturday when I



Karen Pearlman/Bullet

A pile of rubble sits before the former home of six Mary Washington students.

I don't know who would have made it out," he said.

DePinto said he wonders if they could have stopped the fire sooner had they been there. Yet he also says it would have been hard to witness his home melting and burning.

"Who knows what would have been different?" DePinto said.

According to senior John Nguyen, also a resident, some students have been referring

see FIRE, page 12

## Friends Celebrate Professor's Life



### Richard P. Palmieri

February 7, 1945 - November 18, 1997

By Anne Mullins

Bullet News Editor

Students, faculty, family and friends who attended Richard P. Palmieri's memorial service on Nov. 22 got better acquainted with him. Nine colleagues and friends shared their memories of Palmieri with a packed Lee Hall Ballroom, and admist the tears and laughter the crowd celebrated Palmieri's life.

William B. Crawley, professor of history and American studies, started the remembrances by sketching Palmieri's personality both privately and professionally.

"We know that he was and is...irreplaceable," Crawley said.

Crawley recounted Palmieri's long list of achievements and good qualities as evidence of Palmieri's uniqueness.

Crawley called Palmieri a "natural teacher as well as a compelling orator." He told of Palmieri's Carpe Diem speech at last year's Convocation. While Crawley said there was not a dry eye in Dodd Auditorium, he laughed a little on the inside because of a long standing inside joke between him and Palmieri: Carpe Diem meant "fish of the day."

Stories like Crawley's painted a picture of Palmieri as both a genius and comedian.

"Consequently, he was not only the brightest person I knew, he was the funniest," Crawley said.

Crawley also spoke about Palmieri's happy life. According to Crawley, Palmieri admired his parents, loved his family which includes his wife, Nancy, and his two children, Matthew and Jessica, and worked with the greatest bunch of guys at the college.

Crawley also enlightened the audience

to Palmieri's musical tastes. While Palmieri loved classical music and opera, he also enjoyed a country tune once in a while. Crawley listed two of Palmieri's favorite songs, "You're Wife's Been Cheating On Us" and "If I Said You Had A Beautiful Body Would You Hold It Against Me."

Joseph G. Dreiss, professor of art and art history, recalled a trip he and Palmieri took to Venice. After their arrival, Dreiss collapsed on the bed in the hotel from exhaustion while Palmieri dropped his suitcase and headed out to explore the city. Dreiss repeated what Palmieri said to him after his return.

"It's a glorious city," Dreiss said.

Selections of music broke up the speeches of Palmieri's friends. Between Dreiss and the next speaker, "Adagio," from "Concerto in A minor" by de Bariot, played for the audience.

Richard H. Warner, professor of history and American studies, said a few short words to Palmieri's family who said exhibited such strength. Warner said that he admired Nancy's courage and compassion. He also said that Palmieri died at home with the full knowledge of the love of his family.

Next, Keith L. Littlefield, one of Palmieri's first students here at Mary Washington, shared his reminiscences of a professor who loved pranks. Littlefield described the two pranks that Palmieri fell for.

According to Littlefield, one occurred during class when Palmieri threw a snowball at him. Littlefield jumped out the window of the classroom and began making snowballs for the other students to use as ammunition against Palmieri.

The second prank happened in a more personal setting. Palmieri had employed Littlefield to paint the eves of his house. During the painting, Littlefield pretended to

fall down the ladder. A shaken Palmieri, after realizing the joke, yelled some expletives that Littlefield edited and repeated to the crowd.

"You illegitimate son," Littlefield said.

Later Littlefield recalled what he will remember most about Palmieri.

"What we will remember first is his mischievous smile and ever present twinkle in his eye," Littlefield said.

Porter R. Blakemore, associate professor of history and American studies, incorporated some more music in his memory of Palmieri. Before he played the selection of music, however, Blakemore spoke about two recurrent themes of the service: Palmieri's concept of friendship and his sense of humor.

Blakemore called Palmieri the ideal friend.

"He would lend you everything and anything he had except Nancy and the kids, and I'm not too sure about Matthew," Blakemore said.

He also said that Palmieri had great friend values.

"Dick [Palmieri] always made you feel good even if your own personal world was turning to crap," said Blakemore.

Blakemore also gave accounts of Palmieri's sense of humor when he recalled Palmieri's antics at Blakemore's surprise 50th birthday party. Palmieri read "telegrams" from people who could not make it to the party. Blakemore said that one of the telegrams was from his ex-wife.

Following his catalog of Palmieri's comedy, Blakemore played "Nessun dorma," from Puccini's "Turandot," sung by Luciano Pavarotti. Blakemore had earlier spoken about Palmieri's three loves: Italy, Opera and Pavarotti.

see PALMIERI, page 12



Courtesy of Porter Blakemore

Palmieri poses with his wife, Nancy, and his two children, Matthew and Jessica (Above). Palmieri gets set for a night of cards with his poker buddies (Left).

# Police Beat

By Chevonne Bray  
Bulit Staff Writer

## INJURY/ILLNESS

On Nov. 20, a student in Seacobeck Hall became ill and fainted. The student was transported to Mary Washington Hospital by the rescue squad.

On Nov. 25, there was a student who suffered severe nausea and light-headedness in Combs Hall. The student was taken to Mary Washington Hospital by the rescue squad.

On Dec. 2, a student became incoherent in Seacobeck Hall. The student was taken to Mary Washington Hospital by the rescue squad.

DUI/DIP

On Nov. 20, Stephanie Farmer of Fredericksburg was arrested for DUI at William Street and Hanover Street.

On Nov. 22, Lisa Breedon of Fredericksburg was charged with DUI at William Street and Hanover Street.

On Nov. 22, William Riehl of Jefferson Hall was charged with DIP.

On Nov. 30, Kevin Halverson of Hartwood, Va. was charged with DUI at Route 1 and College Avenue.

## MISC.

On Nov. 20, Malcolm Smith of Bushnell Hall and Clifford Hazelton were charged with possession of marijuana at the Battleground. Smith was also charged with underage possession of alcohol.

On Nov. 20, Scott Hill of Fredericksburg was charged with underage possession of alcohol.

On Nov. 21, there was an unlawful entry in George Washington Hall's administrative offices.

On Nov. 21, an obscene phone call was made to a residence hall. The situation is under investigation.

On Nov. 22, there was an administrative seizure of alcohol in Bushnell Hall.

On Nov. 22, there was a fire alarm in Jefferson Hall. The cause is unknown.

On Nov. 22, there was a third party sexual assault report taken concerning a sexual assault that occurred on campus.

On Nov. 22, students in New Hall were found to have been taking street signs from the Fredericksburg area. The matter was referred to the administration.

On Nov. 23, there an administrative seizure of alcohol in Jefferson Hall by Residence Life.

On Nov. 25, there was a fire alarm in Jefferson Hall. An unlawful discharge of a fire extinguisher was the cause of the alarm.

On Nov. 25, a vehicle at Goolrick Hall rolled down an embankment and stopped between some trees. The vehicle was in neutral when the incident occurred. There was no damage done to the vehicle.

On Nov. 26, there was a seizure of alcohol by Residence Life in Bushnell Hall.

On Nov. 28, a student lost some belongings in a fire on Princess Anne Street.

On Nov. 30, Adam Zandi of Locust Grove, Va. was charged with possession of marijuana at Route 3 and Blue and Gray Parkway.

On Nov. 30, there was a fire alarm in South Hall. The cause of the alarm is unknown.

On Dec. 1, there was a fire alarm at Belmont. The cause of the alarm is unknown.

On Dec. 1, some building keys were reported lost. A police information report was taken.

On Dec. 1, there was a seizure of alcohol in Virginia Hall by Residence Life.

On Dec. 1, there was a police information report taken concerning a college ID lost in Newport News.

## LARCENY

On Nov. 20, a college ID and lunch bag were stolen from Eagles Nest. The items are valued at \$22.

On Nov. 21, the rear spoiler of a vehicle was stolen from the Battleground. The item is valued at \$295.

On Nov. 24, clothes valued at \$45 were stolen from the admissions office in Lee Hall.

On Nov. 25, there was a larceny in Simpson Library. The items are valued at \$36.

On Nov. 30, some jewelry and makeup valued at \$385 were stolen from Marshall Hall.

On Dec. 1, a college ID was reported stolen from Jefferson Hall.

On Dec. 2, a VCR was stolen from Mason Hall. The item is valued at \$239.

## VANDALISM

On Nov. 23, a toilet bowl was wrenched from a wall in Jefferson Hall. The situation is under investigation.

# Senate Beat

Betsy O'Neill  
Bulit Staff Writer

Guest speakers attended Senate this week. Rick Pierce, assistant vice president of business and finance, and Carolyn Taylor, director of auxiliary services, came to speak to the senators about student concerns with the Wood Company's policies.

According to Taylor, she is involved with a panel which acts as a "liaison between students and administration" and deals with students' concerns with the food services at MWC. The panel includes 14 student representatives, five members of the administration and members of the Wood Company.

"I've been talking to students about what they like, what they don't like, what's convenient," said Taylor. "We try to offer the kind of variety that you all are interested in."

When the floor opened up for questions, sophomores Kelly Cwiak brought up the possibility of commuters having a flex dollar account. Both Taylor and Pierce agreed that it should be done, but they said that it is still in the early stages.

"That is something that we can see happening. It makes a lot of sense," said Pierce. "It could take as long as 14 or 15 months to put that in place."

"It's not that it can't be done," Taylor added. "It's the vehicle by which they have to get it done that makes it more difficult."

Pierce said that at George Mason University, which they both visited last week, students can use cards for many different things besides meals. However, the students have to use many different cards.

"We would like to have just one card," said Taylor. "The technology's out there, and we want to get there just as badly as you do."

Many senators wondered why the Eagles Nest hours have been shortened on the weekends. The reason, according to Pierce and Taylor, is that in order to keep the price of the meal plan the same as it was last year, something had to give. The slowest hours at the Eagle's Nest, Saturday and Sunday mornings, were cut back.

Junior Mike Canty raised the issue of poor dining services at the Eagles Nest especially at night.

"Some people have six o'clock classes that are two or two and a half hours long," Canty said. "You go in there, and there's no pizza, the grill's shut down, the sub shop is closed and there are no bags left. It's a ghost town, and there's nothing of substance to eat."

Taylor said that it is difficult to store extra food in the storage room at the Eagles Nest because of its size. A large portion of the Eagles Nest food is stored at Seacobeck, and it is harder to access at night because of Seacobeck's hours and parking, according to Taylor.

"If you've ever been to the storage area in the Eagles Nest, it's like a two second tour," said Taylor. "For the amount of space they have there, what they do is phenomenal."

Pierce added that it takes more money to run the Eagles Nest for one hour than it does to run Seacobeck, a dining hall with four different rooms, because of the small amount of space available.

"Seacobeck is designed to feed mass amounts of people," said Pierce.

"The Eagles Nest was set up to be a snack bar, and now we're trying to make it a restaurant, and that's more difficult," said Taylor.

"Since the time the Wood Company has been here, business at the Eagles Nest has doubled," said Taylor. "Please feel that if you have a concern, it should be expressed. It will be listened to."

# News Briefs

## CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

\* The Inter-club Association is the coordinating organization that recognizes new clubs and supervises all officially recognized MWC clubs. Open positions for the 1997-1998 school year include vice president, secretary/treasurer and the five members of the constitution review committee. Applications are available at the information desk. Contact Melissa Rizzo, ICA president, at X1805 with any questions. The only requirements are energy, enthusiasm and a commitment to completing tasks within a specified time frame.

\* The Ridderhof Martin Gallery will exhibit "The Body and Gender" on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. from Nov. 7 to Feb. 15. The exhibit is free. Questions, (540) 654-2120.

\* Five MWC senior art studio majors' work will be on display for an exhibition titled "Pushing the Process" in the duPont Gallery from Nov. 21 through Dec. 4. Hours for the exhibition will be Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. Questions, (540) 654-2120.

\* The MWC College-Community Symphony Orchestra will give a "Pops" Concert on Dec. 5 in Dodd

Auditorium at 8 p.m. The concert is free. Questions, (540) 654-1012.

\* The Virginia Foundation for Women will hold its first statewide conference, "Summit '97," on Thursday, Dec. 11 at Mary Washington College. Registration is required for the event at a cost of \$25 which covers lunch and expenses for the day's events. For registration and more information call the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education at (540) 654-1038 before Dec. 5.

\* The James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library will hold its annual open house, "The Holidays with the Monarchs," on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The museum is located at 908 Charles St. The event is free. Questions, (540) 654-1055.

\* Belmont, the Gari Melchers Estate and Memorial Gallery, will host its 20th annual holiday open house on Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Belmont is located at 224 Washington St. in Falmouth off U.S. Route 17. The event is free and open to the public. Questions, (540) 654-1015.

\* The Fredericksburg Jaycees Annual Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6 beginning at 6 p.m. downtown. Questions, (654) 898-3256.

## BOV page 1

that if this is a Virginia resident's reaction, what would a potential student from another state think.

"That is not the name. It is a proposal," said DiBenedetto on the Golden Crescent issue. "It is not a done deal."

"It got a little chilly at the board meeting when it was introduced," he said. "[The name] takes a little getting used to and I'm not getting used to it. The name will come under discussion in February and everyone's opinion will be heard."

"We have a nice product here and that's what we want to build on," he later said.

Following the discussion of the Stafford campus name, the question of potential university status arose. Currently, the proposed umbrella university name for the two campuses is Washington Monroe University. There are no concrete plans for declaring university status as yet.

The issue of creating a more masculine name to recruit more males has continued to surface as a discussion topic amongst the BOV and administration since the 1980s. DiBenedetto said that when he attended MWC, 40 students out of a freshman class of 500 were males, and they all lived in Madison Hall.

"MWC has hit 33.3-35 percent mark on males," he said. DiBenedetto stated that the nationwide average is a 40-40 percent split at institutions of higher education, especially liberal arts schools. MWC's goal is 40 percent male enrollment.

"Admissions had been pushing for a name change. We are between Marymount and Mary Baldwin at college fairs; males don't look at us," said DiBenedetto. "But a name change to attract more males is the wrong reason to do it."

This statement met with overall agreement from the group.

"The number of female applicants may be more but the college is still getting tuition money," said junior Kristen Peters. "Why is attracting more males a money issue if the college is still getting money?"

DiBenedetto responded by agreeing with Peters and explained that getting more males to apply would equal a larger application pool, and MWC would become even more competitive.

"We are certainly not in a crisis," he said.

"Are you expecting to enroll more students?" asked Peters.

DiBenedetto said that the state wants schools to absorb more students to pick up the slack of the increase in student applications.

"We have been thinking about making the summer its own semester to have people here all year round," he said.

DiBenedetto also said that most student housing is a possibility and that building senior dorms apartment style is a consideration. Parking, however, is a major concern. Other possible building ventures would be a wellness center and a parking deck.

"It's not easy to get a donation," DiBenedetto said. "We'd have to go through legislature to get that funding."

"We are marketing ourselves as the 'College of Virginia' and the trend now is to go to a college instead of a university," DiBenedetto said.

"We don't need to be looking at university status, and we should become Mary Washington University if we do," he said. "But our identity is as a college."

DiBenedetto also stated that legislators and the state's council are not very strict concerning a college becoming a university, and the only difference between the two is that a university has an easier time raising money.

"It might make sense in the future with a Stafford campus," he said of possible university status.

The first half of the discussion period focused on DiBenedetto answering questions and allaying fears, but the second half consisted of the reverse. Students voiced opinions and DiBenedetto asked his questions.

Students began to voice their concerns about special interest housing beginning with the dissatisfaction of the current situation of language floors.

"As a freshman here on tour, the special interest houses were pointed out as a point of pride," said junior Jessica Lerch. "It's like we've been pushed under the rug and stuck on a floor."

There was unanimous agreement that student opinions and ideas regarding the decision were seemingly disregarded.

"We're still here. We're still paying attention," Lerch said.

The students present said they felt as though their protesting to the closing of the special interest houses did not accomplish anything because the decision was already made without student input.

Students expressed concern about Rick Surita, director of residence life, living in a former special interest house. Students also informed DiBenedetto of their opinions on the multicultural center and the campus computer systems. DiBenedetto stated that he would write a report on the issues discussed and share it with the BOV.

"I definitely will come back more often next semester, several times," he said.

DiBenedetto responded similarly to statements made throughout the discussion.

"So what do we do about this?" he said giving students a chance to offer their own solutions to issues.

At 9:30 p.m. as the group got up to leave, students and DiBenedetto agreed that the discussion was very informative and definitely a good idea for the future.

"It's great to have a face and name," said Peters. "It's good to know people are listening," said senior Rachel Sola.

"People have been listening, but some people haven't been heard," said McCarthy.

"I was very pleased I came down," DiBenedetto said. "I hope to see more people next time. These comments were all very helpful. I came down here to get an education, and I got one."



Karen Pearlman/Bullet

**Thomas Larus, Jr., son of Scholar in Residence Elizabeth Freund, tries to join in the conversation with BOV member Vince DiBenedetto and students about campus issues.**

# Bullet Says, Have A Great Winter Break!!

# OPINIONS

## Parking Problems

Commuter parking has been a hotly disputed issue at MWC for several years. Commuter students cite lack of parking spaces and an overzealous city police ticketing force among their list of complaints. As a solution, some student leaders and administrators are toying with the idea of not allowing freshmen to bring cars on campus, freeing up the entire Battlefield parking lot for upper classmen. However, while this idea may fix a critical problem at MWC, taking parking privileges away from freshmen is unfair.

The idea for banning freshmen cars came about in a recent Senate meeting. Senators supporting the proposition claim that freshmen with cars tend to leave school on weekends, giving MWC a "suitcase school" reputation. Without cars, the senators said, freshmen would be hard pressed to leave campus and be forced to make a life here and break the chains from home.

However, forcing freshmen to spend their weekends on campus is no way to go about making Mary Washington a hospitable world. For some freshmen, having a car on campus is a necessity, as it is some sophomores, juniors, and seniors. For example, if a freshman needs a job and doesn't get one on campus, having a car allows them to find work elsewhere.

Many upper classmen are against freshmen keeping cars on campus because they did not need a car when they were freshmen. The reason, though, these students did not need a car is because they knew fellow classmates who did have cars and were able to take them places they needed to go. Obviously, if freshmen were denied parking privileges, these students would have undoubtedly had an extremely difficult time in finding rides around town.

Another reason freshmen need to be allowed parking privileges is for traveling between breaks. For the out of state student, a car is almost a necessity as it makes travelling to and from home much easier. Without a car, a freshman either has to rely on their parents to pick them up or on another student to give them either a ride home or to the train station, making the journey home much more of a hassle than it needs to be.

The biggest problem, though, with the argument against freshmen parking is that if freshmen can't have cars, then why should sophomores? Surely every reason given to support banning freshmen parking can be used to support banning anyone else's (save commuter's) parking, right?

The point is, upper classmen have no better reason than freshmen to keep cars on campus. It is simply a matter of convenience.

## Mary Washington BULLET

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## Get The Political Ball Rolling

By Andrew Mefford  
Guest Columnist

Did you like the special interest houses? Do you dislike the plus/minus grading system? Did you like the Russian or Dance programs? Did you like diversity courses that would count as general education requirements?

Chances are, if you are a student at Mary Washington College, you answered yes to at least one of the above questions.

The decisions concerning these issues were made without taking into account the opinions of the students because the administration has no compelling interest in listening to them.

Furthermore, political involvement on the students' part is discouraged by the lack of an effective means to address and effect student concerns.

Between taking five classes a semester in order to graduate on time, working a job, participating in extracurricular activities, and having a few free students are able to devote much time to politics. These aspirations are further

discouraged when the chances of a student opinion being taken into account by the administration are slim.

I saw petitions to save the Russian program, and I know the student opinion was heavily against a plus/minus grading system. I thought surely these demonstrations of student opinion would have some effect on the decisions concerning these programs.

Yet the Russian program was axed, and plus/minus grading will be instituted in the near future. I found out why when I read the student handbook.

On page 164 of this year's student handbook is a "Flow Chart For Effecting Change Through The Student Government Association."

This chart puts the student on the bottom of a nine step procedure which has to be waded through for the Board

of Visitors to consider student opinion.

If a student concern does not get approved by the senate and a host of other committees, nothing more than a suggestion is offered to the

Executive Cabinet, President of the College, and Board of Visitors.

The Student Government Association is more like the Student Suggestion Association.

There is no way for students to resist or influence decisions about the Mary Washington that they oppose.

This situation leaves the student body totally disempowered.

If the Mary Washington legislative system is compared to the legislative system of the United States, our senators have the power to make suggestions to the president, but no laws.

Structuring the student government like this gives the student a false sense of power.

Students feel like they have an outlet for complaints in the senate, but the senate can't guarantee any change, even if it is on the side of public opinion.

In looking at the SGA in this way it is possible to see that this allows the administration at Mary Washington the freedom to do what they decide is best for the college without considering student opinion.

With a largely pacified student body that most likely couldn't bring about a major change anyway, there is no compelling interest for the administration to act in favor of the people its decisions will affect.

Students are left discouraged and politically angry with only two real options to resisting the decisions of the administration.

First, they can try to change the student government process at MWC so that the SGA carries some weight. Or, they can try to

see POLITICS, page 11

## Stressed Out?

DEALING WITH STRESS  
IN A HEALTHY WAY.....



Dave McKim/Bullet

## Cheap Books Online

Students Give An Option To MWC Bookstore

By Michael Paolino  
Guest Columnist

Are you tired of paying inflated prices for your required textbooks? Are you fed up with waiting in long lines at the beginning of the semester?

Oh, I am sorry, but that book is out of stock. You need to wait a couple of weeks while we order some more. Does that sentence sound familiar?

Some students at Mary Washington have found a way to fight these problems and give students a choice in how they buy their books.

Fellow senior Chris Bagley and I have partnered up with a new company named Spree.com to open an online bookstore. They are creating a World Wide Web page that would link us to Spree.com and thus benefit from their services.

Online, Spree.com offers over three million titles, including textbooks, plays, manuscripts, fiction, nonfiction, and pretty much anything else a professor could want you to purchase. They also offer these books with a discount between

20 and 40 percent off the retail price. This means savings passed on to the college student.

In exchange for encouraging the use of Spree.com, Bagley and I receive a commission based on the total amount of sales. From the money that we receive, we have pledged to donate ten percent to charity.

Students will also have access to Spree's huge warehouse that offers the students a better price, a bigger selection, more reliability, and less wasted time and aggravation.

Because the store operates online, the service is available 24 hours a day. This enables students to purchase books later in the semester without the fear that the MWC bookstore will run out of stock.

In addition, Spree.com has a 30-day money-back guarantee. If a student buys a book and the professor decides that the class does not need to read it, it can be returned for a full refund.

see ONLINE, page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### Trinkle Sisters Should Go Home

Editor:  
This letter is in response to the article "Dedicated Students Make Trinkle Study Room Like Home" which appeared in the Nov. 20 issue of The Bullet.

We find the "Trinkle sisters" for from admirable, in fact we find them downright rude for thinking that Trinkle is their own abode.

It is extremely disrespectful and self-righteous for any students to think they have the right to hog up so much space in a community study room, particularly when other students surely study just as much, if not more, than these three, the only difference being that the average students don't perceive themselves as martyrs for their efforts.

The abundance of personal belongings is inappropriate, not to mention distracting to those trying to seriously study, and not just worry about whether or not Papa John's will deliver to an academic building.

Furthermore, there have been times when we have come into Trinkle, unable to find a seat only to see the thrones of the self-proclaimed "Trinkle-sisters" empty, yet we could not sit in the lonely seats because of

all their junk.

The rules on the door of Trinkle plainly state that no student is allowed to leave their personal belongings in the study room for extended period of time" which the rules define as a few hours.

Why should these girls be an exception?

Additionally, we were struck by their self-indulgence in the article, that she would be "hospitable" by giving tea to anyone who asks. Are you kidding?

Hospitality should radiate from the home.

We don't want your tea,

Trinkle is not your dorm room and we would personally feel ashamed if we took up residency as "Trinkle sisters."

If these girls truly want to be "hospitable" they would pack it up and move it out!

Julie Harrison and Lindsay Stover seniors

### Benefit Party To Be Held

Editor:

Come join the fun! Spanky's Restaurant is hosting the first "Burn Down the House Party."

On Thursday, Dec. 4th, Spanky's will host a party to benefit the six college students found victim to the recent Thanksgiving day fire. The

party begins at happy hour (4 p.m.) and lasts until the restaurant closes.

Spanky's is offering several additional specials to top off the long list of regular happy hour specials; happy hour will be extended through the night and "What the Gang Ordered" will be on special.

Various raffles will be held throughout the night offering the lucky winner one week and one month daily free meals at Spanky's. A complete Spanky's gift package including candy, glasses, gift certificates, and Spanky's paraphernalia will also be raffled off.

Ticket prices vary from \$1 to \$2, and ten percent of the total sales

generated from this event will go to the six college students: Michael DePinto, John Nguyen, John Gilreath, Todd Hamlin, Chris Bagley and Sean Wilmer who formerly resided in the off campus apartment.

In addition, jars will be located around the restaurant for any other donations.

Spanky's manager Ed Blount is responsible for organizing the benefit and advertising for this Thursday's event by distributing the "Burn Down the House Party" fliers around

see LETTERS, page 11

### Bullet Letter and Column Policy

The *Bullet* is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns and every effort is made to print them. If there are numerous letters on one subject, a sampling of the best letters received will be printed.

Letters should be no more than 250 words and columns no more than 1,300 words, typed, double-spaced. All letters and columns are subject to editing for length and clarity, as well as determining which letters and columns will be run in the newspaper. The deadline for letters and columns is Monday at 5 p.m.

The *Bullet* does not publish anonymous letters or columns. All letters need to be signed with the writer's appropriate title. A phone number and address are also needed for verification.

All letters and columns can be mailed to the *Bullet* at Box 604, 1301 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666 or delivered to our office in the Woodland Campus Center.

If you have any questions, call Rob Thormeyer, Jenine Zimmers or Bethany Johnston at 614-1133.

# Police Beat

By Chevonne Bray  
Bullet Staff Writer

## INJURY/ILLNESS

On Nov. 20, a student in Seacobeck Hall became ill and fainted. The student was transported to Mary Washington Hospital by the rescue squad.

On Nov. 25, there was a student who suffered severe nausea and light-headedness in Combs Hall. The student was taken to Mary Washington Hospital by the rescue squad.

On Dec. 2, a student became incoherent in Seacobeck Hall. The student was taken to Mary Washington Hospital by the rescue squad.

## DUI/DIP

On Nov. 20, Stephanie Farmer of Fredericksburg was arrested for DUI at William Street and Hanover Street.

On Nov. 22, Lisa Breedon of Fredericksburg was charged with DUI at William Street and Hanover Street.

On Nov. 22, William Richl of Jefferson Hall was charged with DIP.

On Nov. 30, Kevin Halverson of Hartwood, Va. was charged with DUI at Route 1 and College Avenue.

## MISC.

On Nov. 20, Malcolm Smith of Bushnell Hall and Clifford Hazelton were charged with possession of marijuana at the Battleground. Smith was also charged with underage possession of alcohol.

On Nov. 20, Scott Hill of Fredericksburg was charged with underage possession of alcohol.

On Nov. 21, there was an unlawful entry in George Washington Hall's administrative offices.

On Nov. 21, an obscene phone call was made to a residence hall. The situation is under investigation.

On Nov. 22, there was an administrative seizure of alcohol in Bushnell Hall.

On Nov. 22, there was a fire alarm in Jefferson Hall. The cause is unknown.

On Nov. 22, there was a third party sexual assault report taken concerning a sexual assault that occurred on campus.

On Nov. 22, students in New Hall were found to have been taking street signs from the Fredericksburg area. The matter was referred to the administration.

On Nov. 23, there an administrative seizure of alcohol in Jefferson Hall by Residence Life.

On Nov. 25, there was a fire alarm in Jefferson Hall. An unlawful discharge of a fire extinguisher was the cause of the alarm.

On Nov. 25, a vehicle at Goolrick Hall rolled down an embankment and stopped between some trees. The vehicle was in neutral when the incident occurred. There was no damage done to the vehicle.

On Nov. 26, there was a seizure of alcohol by Residence Life in Bushnell Hall.

On Nov. 28, a student lost some belongings in a fire on Princess Anne Street.

On Nov. 30, Adam Zandi of Locust Grove, Va. was charged with possession of marijuana at Route 3 and Blue and Gray Parkway.

On Nov. 30, there was a fire alarm in South Hall. The cause of the alarm is unknown.

On Dec. 1, there was a fire alarm at Belmont. The cause of the alarm is unknown.

On Dec. 1, some building keys were reported lost. A police information report was taken.

On Dec. 1, there was a seizure of alcohol in Virginia Hall by Residence Life.

On Dec. 1, there was a police information report taken concerning a college ID lost in Newport News.

## LARCENY

On Nov. 20, a college ID and lunch bag were stolen from Eagles Nest. The items are valued at \$22.

On Nov. 21, the rear spoiler of a vehicle was stolen from the Battleground. The item is valued at \$295.

On Nov. 24, clothes valued at \$45 were stolen from the admissions office in Lee Hall.

On Nov. 25, there was a larceny in Simpson Library. The items are valued at \$36.

On Nov. 30, some jewelry and makeup valued at \$385 were stolen from Marshall Hall.

On Dec. 1, a college ID was reported stolen from Jefferson Hall.

On Dec. 2, a VCR was stolen from Mason Hall. The item is valued at \$239.

## VANDALISM

On Nov. 23, a toilet bowl was wrenched from a wall in Jefferson Hall. The situation is under investigation.

On Nov. 23, there an administrative seizure of alcohol in Jefferson Hall by Residence Life.

# News Briefs

## CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

• The Inter-club Association is the coordinating organization that recognizes new clubs and supervises all officially recognized MWC clubs. Open positions for the 1997-1998 school year include vice president, secretary/treasurer and the five members of the constitution review committee. Applications are available at the information desk. Contact Melissa Rizzo, ICA president, at X1805 with any questions. The only requirements are energy, enthusiasm and a commitment to completing tasks within a specified time frame.

• The Rudder of Martin Gallery will exhibit "The Body and Gender" on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. from Nov. 7 to Feb. 15. The exhibit is free. Questions, (540) 654-2120.

• Five MWC senior art studio majors' work will be on display for an exhibition titled "Pushing the Process" in the duPont Gallery from Nov. 21 through Dec. 4. Hours for the exhibition will be Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. Questions, (540) 654-2120.

• The MWC College-Community Symphony Orchestra will give a "Pops" Concert on Dec. 5 in Dodd

Auditorium at 8 p.m. The concert is free. Questions, (540) 654-1012.

• The Virginia Foundation for Women will hold its first statewide conference, "Summit '97," on Thursday, Dec. 11 at Mary Washington College. Registration is required for the event at a cost of \$25 which covers lunch and expenses for the day's events. For registration and more information call the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education at (540) 654-1038 before Dec. 5.

• The James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library will hold its annual open house, "The Holidays with the Monarchs," on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The museum is located at 908 Charles St. The event is free. Questions, (540) 654-1055.

• Belmont, the Gari Melchers Estate and Memorial Gallery, will host its 20th annual holiday open house on Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Belmont is located at 224 Washington St. in Falmouth off U.S. Route 17. The event is free and open to the public. Questions, (540) 654-1015.

• The Fredericksburg Jaycees Annual Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6 beginning at 6 p.m. downtown. Questions, (654) 898-3256.

## BOV page 1

that if this is a Virginia resident's reaction, what would a potential student from another state think.

"That is not the name. It is a proposal," said DiBenedetto to the Golden Crescent issue. "It is not a done deal."

"It got a little chilly at the board meeting when it was introduced," he said. "The name takes a little getting used to and I'm not getting used to it. The name will come under discussion in February and everyone's opinion will be heard."

"We have a nice product here and that's what we want to build on," he later said.

Following the discussion of the Stafford campus name, the question of potential university status arose. Currently, the proposed umbrella university name for the two campuses is Washington Monroe University. There are no concrete plans for declaring university status as yet.

The issue of creating a more masculine name to recruit more males has continued to surface as a discussion topic amongst the BOV and administration since the 1980s. DiBenedetto said that when he attended MWC, 40 students out of a freshman class of 500 were males, and they all lived in Madison Hall.

"MWC has hit 33-35 percent mark on males," he said. DiBenedetto stated that the nationwide average is a 60-40 percent split at institutions of higher education, especially liberal arts schools. MWC's goal is 40 percent male enrollment.

"Admissions had been pushing for a name change. We are between Marymount and Mary Baldwin at college fairs; males don't look at us," said DiBenedetto. "But a name change to attract more males is the wrong reason to do it."

This statement met with overall agreement from the group.

"The number of female applicants may be more but the college is still getting tuition money," said junior Kristen Peters. "Why is attracting more males a money issue if the college is still getting money?"

DiBenedetto responded by agreeing with Peters and explained that getting more males to apply would equal a larger application pool, and MWC would become even more competitive.

"We are certainly not in a crisis," he said.

"Are you expecting to enroll more students?" asked Peters.

DiBenedetto said that the state wants schools to absorb more students to pick up the slack of the increase in student applications.

"We have been thinking about making the summer its own semester to have people here all year round," he said.

DiBenedetto also said that more student housing is a possibility and that building senior dorms apartment style is a consideration. Parking, however, is a major concern. Other possible building ventures would be a wellness center and a parking deck.

"It's not easy to get a donation," DiBenedetto said. "We'd have to go through legislature to get that funding."

"We are marketing ourselves as the 'College of Virginia' and the trend now is to go to a college instead of a university," DiBenedetto said.

"We don't need to be looking at university status, and we should become Mary Washington University if we do," he said. "But our identity is as a college."

DiBenedetto also stated that legislators and the state's council are not very strict concerning a college becoming a university, and the only difference between the two is that a university has an easier time raising money.

"It might make sense in the future with a Stafford campus," he said of possible university status.

The first half of the discussion period focused on DiBenedetto answering questions and allaying fears, but the second half consisted of the reverse. Students voiced opinions and DiBenedetto asked his questions.

Students began to voice their concerns about special interest housing beginning with the dissatisfaction of the current situation of language floors.

"As a freshman here on tour, the special interest houses were pointed out as a point of pride," said junior Jessica Larch. "It's like we've been pushed under the rug and stuck on a floor."

There was unanimous agreement that student opinions and ideas regarding the decision were seemingly disregarded.

"We're still here. We're still paying attention," Larch said.

The students present said they felt as though their protesting to the closing of the special interest houses did not accomplish anything because the decision was already made without student input.

Students expressed concern about Rick Surita, director of residence life, living in a former special interest house.

Students also informed DiBenedetto of their opinions on the multicultural center and the campus computer systems. DiBenedetto stated that he would write a report on the issues discussed and share it with the BOV.

"I definitely will come back more often next semester, several times," he said.

DiBenedetto responded similarly to statements made throughout the discussion.

"So what do we do about this?" he said giving students a chance to offer their own solutions to issues.

At 9:30 p.m. as the group got up to leave, students and DiBenedetto agreed that the discussion was very informative and definitely a good idea for the future.

"It's great to have a face and name," said Peters.

"It's good to know people are listening," said senior Rachel Sola.

"People have been listening, but some people haven't been heard," said McCarthy.

"I was very pleased I came down," DiBenedetto said. "I hope to see more people next time. These comments were all very helpful. I came down here to get an education, and I got one."

# Senate Beat

Betsy O'Neill  
Bullet Staff Writer

Guest speakers attended Senate this week. Rick Pierce, assistant vice president of business and finance, and Carolyn Taylor, director of auxiliary services, came to speak to the senators about student concerns with the Wood Company's policies.

According to Taylor, she is involved with a panel which acts as a "liaison between students and administration" and deals with students' concerns with the food services at MWC. The panel includes 14 student representatives, five members of the administration and members of the Wood Company.

"I've been talking to students about what they like, what they don't like, what's convenient," said Taylor. "We try to offer the kind of variety that you all are interested in."

When the floor opened up for questions, sophomore Kelly Cwirak brought up the possibility of commuters having a flex dollar account. Both Taylor and Pierce agreed that it should be done, but they said that it is still in the early stages.

"That is something that we can see happening. It makes a lot of sense," said Pierce. "It could take as long as 14 or 15 months to put that in place."

"It's not that it can't be done," Taylor added. "It's the vehicle by which they have to get it done that makes it more difficult."

Pierce said that at George Mason University, which they both visited last week, students can use cards for many different things besides meals. However, the students have to use many different cards.

"We would like to have just one card," said Taylor. "The technology's out there, and we want to get there just as easily as you do."

Many senators wondered why the Eagles Nest hours have been shortened on the weekends. The reason, according to Pierce and Taylor, is that in order to keep the price of the meal plan the same as it was last year, something had to give. The slowest hours at the Eagle's Nest, Saturday and Sunday mornings, were cut back.

Junior Mike Canty raised the issue of poor dining services at the Eagles Nest especially at night.

"Some people have six o'clock classes that are two or two and a half hours long," Canty said. "You go in there, and there's no pizza, the grill's shut down, the sub shop is closed and there are no bags left. It's a ghost town, and there's nothing of substance to eat."

Taylor said that it is difficult to store extra food in the storage room at the Eagles Nest because of its size. A large portion of the Eagles Nest food is stored at Seacobeck, and it is harder to access at night because of Seacobeck's hours and parking, according to Taylor.

"If you've ever been to the storage area in the Eagles Nest, it's like a two second tour," said Taylor. "For the amount of space they have there, what they do is phenomenal."

Pierce added that it takes more money to run the Eagles Nest for one hour than it does to run Seacobeck, a dining hall with four different rooms, because of the small amount of space available.

"The Eagles Nest was set up to be a snack bar, and now we're trying to make it a restaurant, and that's more difficult," said Taylor.

"Since the time the Wood Company has been here, business at the Eagles Nest has doubled," said Taylor. "Please feel that if you have a concern, it should be expressed. It will be listened to."



Karen Pearlman/Bullet

Thomas Larus, Jr., son of Scholar in Residence Elizabeth Freund, tries to join in the conversation with BOV member Vince DiBenedetto and students about campus issues.

# Bullet Says, Have A Great Winter Break!!

# OPINIONS

## Parking Problems

Commuter parking has been a hotly disputed issue at MWC for several years. Commuter students cite lack of parking spaces and an overzealous city police ticketing force among their list of complaints. As a solution, some student leaders and administrators are toying with the idea of not allowing freshmen to bring cars on campus, freeing up the entire Battlefield parking lot for upper classmen. However, while this idea may fix a critical problem at MWC, taking parking privileges away from freshmen is unfair.

The idea for banning freshmen cars came about in a recent Senate meeting. Senators supporting the proposition claim that freshmen with cars tend to leave school on weekends, giving MWC a "suitcase school" reputation. Without cars, the senators said, freshmen would be hard pressed to leave campus and be forced to make a life here and break the chains from home.

However, forcing freshmen to spend their weekends on campus is no way to go about making Mary Washington a hospitable world. For some freshmen, having a car on campus is a necessity, as it is some sophomores, juniors, and seniors. For example, if a freshman needs a job and doesn't get one on campus, having a car allows them to find work elsewhere.

Many upper classmen are against freshmen keeping cars on campus because they did not need a car when they were freshmen. The reason, though, these students did not need a car is because they knew fellow classmates who did have cars and were able to take them places they needed to go. Obviously, if freshmen were denied parking privileges, these students would have undoubtedly had an extremely difficult time in finding rides around town.

Another reason freshmen need to be allowed parking privileges is for traveling between breaks. For the out of state student, a car is almost a necessity as it makes travelling to and from home much easier. Without a car, a freshman either has to rely on their parents to pick them up or on another student to give them either a ride home or to the train station, making the journey home much more of a hassle than it needs to be.

The biggest problem, though, with the argument against freshmen parking is that if freshmen can't have cars, then why should sophomores? Surely every reason given to support banning freshmen parking can be used to support banning anyone else's (save commuter's) parking, right?

The point is, upper classmen have no better reason than freshmen to keep cars on campus. It is simply a matter of convenience.

## The BULLET

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Editorials represent the opinions of the *Bullet* editorial board and not necessarily those of the college, student body or the entire *Bullet* staff. Opinions expressed in columns, commentaries and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Bullet*. All decisions are made by the editorial board, independent of the *Bullet* adviser.

## Get The Political Ball Rolling

By Andrew Mefford  
Guest Columnist

Did you like the special interest houses? Do you dislike the plus/minus grading system? Did you like the Russian or Dance programs? Did you like diversity courses that would count as general education requirements?

Chances are, if you are a student at Mary Washington College, you have said yes to at least one of the above questions.

The decisions concerning these issues were made without taking into account the opinions of the students because the administration has no compelling interest in listening to them.

Furthermore, political involvement on the students' part is discouraged by the lack of an effective means to address and effect student concerns.

Between taking five classes a semester in order to graduate on time, working a job, participating in extracurricular activities, and having a life, few students are able to devote much time to politics. These aspirations are further

discouraged when the chances of a student opinion being taken into account by the administration are slim.

I saw petitions to save the Russian

program, and I know the student opinion was heavily against a plus/minus grading system. I thought surely these demonstrations of student opinion would have some effect on the decisions concerning these programs.

Yet the Russian program was axed, and plus/minus grading will be instated in the near future. I found out why when I read the student handbook.

On page 164 of this year's student handbook is a "Flow Chart For Effecting Change Through The Student Government Association."

This chart puts the student on the bottom of a nine step procedure which has to be waded through for the Board

of Visitors to consider student opinion.

If a student concern does not get approved by the senate and a host of other committees, nothing more than a suggestion is offered to the

Executive Cabinet, President of the College, and Board of Visitors.

The Student Government Association is more like the Student Suggestion Association. There is no way for students to resist or

influence decisions about the Mary Washington that they oppose.

This situation leaves the student body totally disempowered.

If the Mary Washington legislative system is compared to the legislative system of the United States, our senators have the power to make suggestions to the president, but no

Structuring the student government like this gives the student a false sense of power.

Students feel like they have an outlet for complaints in the senate, but the senate can't guarantee any change, even if it is on the side of public opinion.

In looking at the SGA in this way it is possible to see that this allows the administration at Mary Washington the freedom to do what they decide is best for the college without considering student opinion.

With a largely pacified student body that most likely couldn't bring about a major change anyway, there is no compelling interest for the administration to act in favor of the people its decisions will affect.

Students are left discouraged and politically angry with only two real options to resisting the decisions of the administration.

First, they can try to change the student government process at MWC so that the SGA carries some weight. Or, they can try to

see POLITICS, page 11

## Stressed Out?

DEALING WITH STRESS  
IN A HEALTHY WAY.....



Dave McKim/Bullet

## Cheap Books Online

Students Give An Option To MWC Bookstore

By Michael Paolino  
Guest Columnist

Are you tired of paying inflated prices for your required textbooks? Are you fed up with waiting in long lines at the beginning of the semester?

Oh, I am sorry, but that book is out of stock. You need to wait a couple of weeks while we order some more. Does that sentence sound familiar?

Some students at Mary Washington have found a way to fight these problems and give students a choice in how they buy their books.

Fellow senior Chris Bagley and I have partnered up with a new company named Spreec.com to open an online bookstore. They are creating a World Wide Web page that would link us to Spreec.com and thus benefit from their services.

Online, Spreec.com offers over three million titles, including textbooks, plays, manuscripts, fiction, nonfiction, and pretty much anything else a professor could want you to purchase. They also offer these books with a discount between

20 and 40 percent off the retail price. This means savings passed on to the college student.

In exchange for encouraging the use of Spreec.com, Bagley and I receive a commission based on the total amount of sales. From the money that we receive, we have pledged to donate ten percent to charity.

Students will also have access to Spreec's huge warehouse that offers the students a better price, a bigger selection, more reliability, and less wasted time and aggravation.

Because the store operates online, the service is available 24 hours a day. This enables students to purchase books later in the semester without the fear that the MWC bookstore will run out of stock.

In addition, Spreec.com has a 30-day money-back guarantee. If a student buys a book and the professor decides that the class does not need to read it, it can be returned for a full refund.

see ONLINE, page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### Trinkle Sisters Should Go Home

#### Editor:

This letter is in response to the article "Dedicated Students Make Trinkle Study Room Like Home" which appeared in the Nov. 20 issue of The Bullet.

We find the "Trinkle sisters" far from admirable, in fact we find them downright rude for thinking that Trinkle is their own abode.

It is extremely disrespectful and self-righteous for any students to think they have the right to hog up so much space in a community study room, particularly when other students surely study just as much, if not more, than these three, the only difference being that the average students don't perceive themselves as martyrs for their efforts.

The abundance of personal belongings is inappropriate, not to mention distracting to those trying to seriously study, and not just worry about whether or not Papa John's will deliver to an academic building. Furthermore, there have been times when we have come into Trinkle, unable to find a seat only to see the thrones of the self-proclaimed "Trinkle-sisters" empty, yet we could not sit in the lonely seats because of

all their junk.

The rules on the door of Trinkle plainly state that no student is allowed to leave their personal belongings in the study room for an "extended period of time" which the rules define as a few hours.

Why should these girls be an exception?

Additionally, we were struck by their self-indulgence when one "sister" said in the article, that she would be "hospitable" by giving tea to anyone who asks. Are you kidding?

Hospitality should radiate from the home. We don't want your tea, Trinkle is not your dorm room and we would personally feel ashamed if we took up residency as "Trinkle sisters."

If these girls truly want to be "hospitable" they would pack it up and move it out!

Julie Harrison and Lindsay Stover senior

### Benefit Party To Be Held

#### Editor:

Come join the fun! Spanky's Restaurant is hosting the first "Burning Down the House Party."

On Thursday, Dec 4th, Spanky's will host a party to benefit the six college students found victim to the recent Thanksgiving day fire. The

party begins at happy hour (4 p.m.) and lasts until the restaurant closes.

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generated from this event will go directly to the six college students: Michael DePinto, John Nguyen, John Gilreath, Todd Hamlin, Chris Bagley and Sean Wilmer who formerly resided in the off campus apartment.

In addition, jars will be located around the restaurant for any other donations.

Spanky's manager Ed Blount is responsible for organizing the benefit and advertising for this Thursdays event by distributing the "Burning Down the House Party" fliers around

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If you have any questions, call Rob Thormeyer, Jenine Zimmers or Bethany Johnston at 654-1133.

# FEATURES

## The Life Of Richard Palmieri

By Angela Zosel  
Bullet Features Editor

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, the Mary Washington College community suffered a loss but gained a little something at the same time. Lost was Richard P. Palmieri, professor emeritus of geography. Gained was the legend of a professor who touched the lives of everyone he met.

Palmieri, a Boston native, always had a passion for geography. He received his bachelor's degree in geography at the University of Massachusetts, his Master's degree in geography at the University of Texas, and his Ph.D. in geography at the University of California.

Palmieri was considered to be an expert in the field of Asian cultural geography and authored several publications on the subjects of cultural and economic geography.

Palmieri also spent 1972-73 living and conducting field research in Nepal. Interestingly enough, his area of study was the yak. Porter Blakemore, chairman of the department of history and American studies, said that Palmieri's yak research became the subject of quite a lot of teasing over the years.

"We used to kid him a lot, saying that he was the world expert on yaks," said Blakemore. "It was also that during his whole time there he only saw one herd of yaks."

Palmieri joined the faculty of Mary Washington College in 1977 and has been one of the college's most respected professors ever since. Palmieri received the Mortar Board Outstanding Professor Award, which is an honor bestowed based on the vote of MWC students, in 1997.

Blakemore used to tell students that before graduating it was essential to take classes with two professors: Jack Kramer, professor of political science, was one. Palmieri was the other.



courtesy of Porter Blakemore

### Palmieri gets a hug from his daughter, Jessica.

"[Palmieri] was extremely committed to quality education. He was very demanding and he would nail students if they weren't prepared," said Blakemore.

Andrew Rothschild, a junior geography major, said that Palmieri had an incredible knack for making the material interesting.

"He's very funny and smart and he made you enjoy what you were studying. I changed my major from English to geography just because of his World Regional Geography class," Rothschild said.

Stephen O'Connell, a senior geography major, had a similar story about the impact that Palmieri's teaching had.

"When I came into [Palmieri's] class, I was still deciding what to major in. When I left, I was certain that I was going to major in geography," O'Connell said.

Students and professors also acknowledged that Palmieri's ability to get students to laugh at themselves set him apart from other faculty members at the college.

"He could make fun of people but in such a good-natured way that no one could get upset. He really believed in the benefits of being able to laugh at yourself," Blakemore said.

Rothschild agreed with Blakemore.

"[Palmieri] could embarrass you and make you feel stupid, but you'd enjoy it," he said.

Felicity Smith, a senior also declared a major in geography after taking a class with Palmieri, said that Palmieri's love for geography was evident in his teaching.

"He'd just tell stories about every little country. The way he teased students, you knew that he loved being there and being surrounded by the students," Smith said. "You never dreaded going to his class."

O'Connell agreed with Smith in that Palmieri's passion to the material was great.

"The enthusiasm he had for the class was great. It seemed like he was so happy to be there and he

wanted to teach as best as he possibly could," said O'Connell.

President William M. Anderson was also touched by Palmieri's incredible ability to communicate the subject he loved so much.

"He had such a sense of humor and a way of expressing himself that he had a marvelous impact on any group of people he spoke with," Anderson said.

Blakemore said that Palmieri's relationship with the students was one like no other professor could manage. Palmieri was known for making bets with students for which the prize was a six-pack of beer. Students in Palmieri's classes weren't afraid to start snowball fights with him and knew that he was one professor who could relate to students very easily.

"He could do absolutely outrageous things in the classroom, but he was always respected and in control of the class," Blakemore said. "The students loved him."

Rothschild shared in the sentiment that everyone knew Palmieri loved him.

"You would've had to work very hard not to like him. He was an incredible person," Rothschild said.

Perhaps Palmieri was best known among his fellow faculty members for his love of gossip or, as he called it, "bottom-fishing." He loved to know everything about everybody and was notorious for making rounds of others' offices in search of new information.

"His door was always open to anyone who had any dirt for him," Blakemore said. "It's hard to believe he ever got anything done, because people would come from other buildings all the time just to get the latest gossip from him."

According to Blakemore, he always knew when Palmieri had news to spill when he heard the sound of the next office's drawer of candy opening. Within seconds, Palmieri would come into Blakemore's office, drop down with his candy, and start gossiping.

Palmieri's desire to be the first to know everything also spilled over into academic affairs. Because he always wanted to join in on history department meetings, history professors affectionately referred to him as the "Twelfth Man" in the department.

"We'd all be sitting in the meeting expecting a microphone to drop from the ceiling at any moment with Dick [Palmieri] on the other end. He always wanted to know what was going on," Blakemore said.

In the spring of 1997, history department personnel officially acknowledged Palmieri's interest in the department by giving him the "Twelfth Man" award.

Smith also related a story about Palmieri that demonstrated his comfortable relationship with his students. One day, Smith was walking down Campus Walk after just buying a bagel at the Eagles Nest when she saw Palmieri coming her way.

"He yelled, 'Smith! Give me a bite of that bagel!' He grabbed my bagel and took a chunk out of it and then just kept walking," Smith said.

Blakemore and Palmieri were good friends outside of the college, as well.

"He was always candid, always understanding. He was a very valued friend," Blakemore said.

When Blakemore's wife held a surprise party and roast for her husband's 50th birthday, Palmieri was invited to speak.

"My wife only asked three people, and unfortunately for me, Dick was one of them," Blakemore knew that he was in for a full night of embarrassment.

Palmieri brought with him "real" telegrams from guests, including Blakemore's ex-wife and ex-mother-in-law, who were supposedly apologizing for not making it to the event.

Palmieri was also a member of a group of professors who played weekly poker games together. Palmieri was the original founder of the group and, according to Blakemore, showed up every week with a pocketful of money.

Palmieri held tight to certain principles and he made them known to the Mary Washington community. One of his beliefs was that it was important for the members of the faculty to work through conflicts without bringing personal grievances into it.

According to Blakemore, a faculty meeting a few years back ended in a large argument and many professors "said things that they shouldn't have said."

Soon after, Palmieri called another meeting and spoke to the entire faculty what eventually became famous among professors at MWC. Palmieri criticized members who had let personal feelings get in the way of the greater goal- to solve the problems together.

"Everybody greatly admired him for doing that," said Blakemore. "He was kind



Palmieri walks with James Gouger, retired professor of geography, at Mary Washington College's 1997 commencement.

Courtesy of Donald Rallis

of the conscience for the faculty."

One of Palmieri's favorite subjects of debate was that of merit pay for the faculty. Blakemore tells the story of a dinner party at which Palmieri brought up the issue.

"He was talking about merit pay and he walked around the other professors and said that he wanted to whisper sweet nothings into their ears," Blakemore said. Palmieri then proceeded to whisper "Nothing for you" into each professor's ear, symbolizing the lack of merit pay for qualified faculty members.

Palmieri was also known for his closeness with his wife and children. According to Blakemore, when Palmieri's daughter, Jessica, was born, he stood up at the faculty meeting and announced, "I am now the proud father of a baby daughter."

"He was so proud of his kids," Blakemore said. "He valued family and friends greatly; things that everyone should value, but a lot of people don't. He was just in love with life."

Many students and professors remember when they first became aware of Palmieri's illness. Palmieri first went to the doctor because of neck pain and then doctors discovered the cancer. Blakemore said that the cancer probably began in Palmieri's pancreas but had spread to his liver before doctors found it.

Smith, who was studying abroad in New Zealand when Palmieri's illness was discovered, was contacted via e-mail.

"I called Marshall [Bowen, professor of geography] and just started crying hysterically. I couldn't believe it," Smith said.

"That was a bad week," Blakemore said. "Every day it got worse; they'd find something else wrong with him."

Still, students and faculty acknowledge that Palmieri had an incredible spirit and always remained cheerful.

Smith, who cleaned the Palmieri house once a week, said that he never let the illness get him down.

"I'd go to his house and be cleaning and he'd be up and about, laughing and all. He still rattled off these jokes," Smith said.

President Anderson, who visited Palmieri in between therapy sessions at Mary Washington Hospital, was also

amazed at the professor's high spirits.

"I always found him to be very courageous. He never gave up hope," Anderson said. "He was a marvelous human being who had a marvelous spirit."

Richard Palmieri passed away on Nov. 18. A memorial service was held on Nov. 22 in the Lee Hall Ballroom. The ballroom was packed as students listened to professors relate their favorite stories and pay their respects to the professor they all loved so much.

At the service, it was said that the police were going to retire the "Slow Driver of the Year" award, because no one else would ever be able to compete with Palmieri's driving style. Palmieri had always been teased about his slow-paced driving.

"Our poker games were on Friday nights, and we used to joke around and say that we'd have to leave Thursday afternoon to make it on time," Blakemore said.

Also, a scholarship was designated in Palmieri's name. Friends of Palmieri's joked that the recipient of the scholarship would have to agree to study extensively.

"[The service] was really emotional. It was really nice to see so many people there," said Sarah Jerley, a senior geography major.

From the attendance at the memorial service, there was no doubt that Palmieri touched many lives at Mary Washington College.

"He just enlightened everybody. He brought a little sunshine into everyone's life. It's not the same around here," said Blakemore.

"He touched all of the students. I'll never forget his smile," Smith said. "I'll never forget him."



Above: Palmieri with Joseph Dreiss, professor of art and art history.  
Left: Palmieri with his wife, Nancy, after receiving the "Twelfth Man" award.

Courtesy of Porter Blakemore



## "Let's Eat" At 2400

**Bullet Staff Writer Ryan MacMichael  
Sings the Praises of the 2400 Diner**

"Twas an interesting evening at the 2400 Diner. It isn't every night that you can enjoy great souvlaki and see someone get hit by a truck.

Though I had passed the 2400 Diner on Princess Anne Street (or the "Let's Eat Diner," for the uninitiated) many times during my first three years here, it wasn't until this summer that I decided to stop in the restaurant promising "Air Cond" and "Good Food" in flickering neon.

Since then, I've been back a couple dozen times. My most recent visit was certainly the most interesting.

I went to the diner at 5 p.m. on a Tuesday, and as usual, their weeknight crowd was limited to an elderly couple in a booth and a couple guests sitting on stools. My server was Laverne (Just like "Laverne and Shirley"), one of the several friendly waitresses that work at the Greek-owned diner.

I had coffee while I was ordering and Laverne was nice enough to start a new pot for me. I had ordered within five minutes and my food was up in fifteen.

The menu has traditional Greek diner fare, ranging from moderately priced club sandwiches to slightly more expensive full souvlaki platters to an \$11.95 20 oz T-Bone steak, the most pricey item available. One of the most notable meals is the 2400 Diner Special: a unique sandwich with the works (lettuce, tomato, bacon, turkey, etc.) with French Toast instead of normal white or wheat bread. Quite a tasty treat for \$5.50.

I went with my favorite selection, the souvlaki platter. For \$6.45, I got a full plate of meat, lettuce, feta cheese, and vegetables. It is served with the best pita bread this side of the Mediterranean and Zanziki sauce that tastes so good you can't help but dip even french fries in it.

The 2400 Diner reminds me of the restaurants seen in movies that are used to represent the local flavor of a town — 1950's-style tabletops featuring a boomerang-like pattern and wood on the bottom half of the walls surrounding the booths with a complimentary white, blue, and maroon wallpaper reaching to the ceiling. It's a very comfortable, relaxed atmosphere, especially on weeknights when the streetlights outside provide ambient lighting.

My meal was uneventful, aside from ordering an extra plate of pita bread and a passing biker throwing something at the window. I remained focused on my platter until Laverne said, "Oh my God... did it hit her?"

I stood up and looked out the window. On the corner right by the diner there was a woman in a pink sweatshirt laying on the ground, not moving. Right by her was the pickup truck that had hit her at 25 mph just moments before.

One of the customers ran outside to make sure everything was okay and came back in shaking his head. "It's bad," he said.

The next half hour was a flurry of activity in the diner, with police, nurses, and the driver of the truck, in near hysteria, coming in and out. The waitresses and owner of the diner immediately dialed 911, supplied blankets and ice, and calmed the driver throughout the crisis.

By the time I left the diner, the woman was alive and eventually came to, but left in an ambulance with her head bleeding and a fractured hip.

After everything had calmed down, I went to the register and paid my bill. The entire meal and evening of excitement came to \$8.05.

The 2400 Diner has never disappointed me with their food, service, or value.

The diner is located at 2400 (!) Princess Anne St right by Carl's Ice Cream. It comfortably seats about 40 people. There is no problem finding a seat during the week, but it can be particularly busy on Saturday afternoons. The meals range between \$5 and \$7 with a few exceptions. Its hours are 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 7 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday.



Karen Pearlman/Bullet

The 2400 Diner on Princess Anne Street.



### A Display To Commemorate World AIDS Day 1997

World AIDS Day 1997 was held on Monday, Dec. 3. A piece of the AIDS quilt was hung in Woodard Campus Center this week. The quilt, which is toured all over the United States, serves as a reminder of those who have died of AIDS.

Karen Pearlman/Bullet

## Sorry Folks, But This Is The Last Issue Of The Bullet

Until We Meet Again In January,  
Have A Wonderful Break, Don't  
Drink and Drive, And Please  
Think Fondly Of Your School  
Newspaper

## THUMBS

a features column by the Bullet staff



to professors who give last-minute extensions on the due dates for long assignments



to our cable here at the college, for not providing Comedy Central



to BOV member Vince DiBenedetto, for taking the time to listen and respond to student concerns at the open forum on Monday night



to the fact that students can only add on to their Flex Dollar accounts in \$25 increments



to students who have decorated their dorm rooms with festive holiday decorations, reminding us of stress-free times ahead



to the fact that only women are required to attend assertiveness-training classes during freshman year. There are plenty of non-assertive men out there, too

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# SPORTS

## Final Four End Of Road For Men's Soccer

Eventual National Champion Wheaton College Stops Eagles 2-1 Friday In National Semifinals

By Andrew Rothschild  
Bullet Staff Writer

While the rest of the student body was enjoying Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends, the members of the MWC men's soccer team remained at school last week. The Eagles were preparing for an NCAA semifinal showdown against number one ranked Wheaton College of Illinois at the Battleground on Friday.

Despite the preparation, however, the Eagles fell in a hard-fought effort, 2-1.

Wheaton, who was undefeated for the second year in a row, would go on to win the national title by defeating College of New Jersey on Saturday. The previous year, Wheaton had been eliminated in the first round despite being the top seed. They were again the first seed this year, and, with both forwards having scored over twenty goals on the season, were extremely powerful.

In the first half of Friday's game, Wheaton dominated play and kept it in the Eagles' defensive zone for a majority of the period. They then scored within the first

twenty minutes of the game after a defensive mistake that led to a breakaway.

The Wheaton midfielder beat MWC sophomore goalkeeper J.T. Nino, who was coming out to challenge him with a high

shot that just dipped under the crossbar.

"It's disappointing to get down a goal like that right away in front of your home crowd in such a big game," said sophomore sweeper Jordi Kleiman. "But we've been down goals

before in games both during the regular season and the tournament. The crowd kept supporting us, and we kept at it. We've never quit this season, and we weren't about to start now."

Mary Washington began applying the pressure and dominated play for the next fifteen minutes. Off a counter-attack, a Wheaton forward got past the Eagle defenders and put in a low shot to the corner with almost five minutes remaining in the half.

"That goal really hurt," commented Nino. "We had started playing well and were hoping to carry it in to the half, but they got an opportunity and were able to capitalize on it."

Still, the Eagle defense was strong.

"I think it's important to recognize [senior] Ben Phelps in this game," said senior captain Craig Gillan. "He doesn't usually get a lot of credit for his play. One of the big reasons we remained in the game against Wheaton was because he shut down their star who went on to score all three goals against College of New Jersey in the finals."

In the second half, the Eagles looked like

a totally different team. They took over the game and only allowed Wheaton one shot on goal the entire period. Although Mary Washington applied constant pressure, they just couldn't put the ball in the net.

One of the best scoring chances occurred when Gillan, suffering from two badly bruised thighs, beat a Wheaton defender along the baseline and crossed the ball out to the six yard box. Junior outside midfielder Kevin Linton's initial shot was deflected by a defender and other rebounds were also deflected wide of the goal.

"It was frustrating because we were getting so many opportunities but we just had trouble getting the ball in the net," said Linton.

With only five minutes remaining in the game, sophomore forward Dan Guerrillo sliced in a strong shot off the upper corner from inside the penalty area. The Eagles frantically tried to tie the game, but to no avail. Wheaton packed the box with defenders and prevented any more Eagle attempts from

see SOCCER, page 7



MWC senior captain Craig Gillan and head coach Roy Gordon embrace following the Eagles' 2-1 NCAA semifinal loss to Wheaton on Friday (center). Frustration sets in for MWC senior Jason Fusaro (10) and sophomore Jason Green (7) late in the game (left). The Wheaton goalie stopping Eagle shots was a painfully common sight on Friday. Here, yet another second half MWC rally is stymied (right).



Photo Courtesy Tom Dozier

## Eagle Soccer Teams Raise The Sports Bar

In recent years, winning the CAC title and advancing to the NCAA tournament has been nothing unusual for Mary Washington teams.

And then came along this year's soccer teams.

The women were dominating throughout the season, and the men were one of the best clutch teams this writer has ever seen. The ladies reached the national

restored the Battleground to its, uh, glory after some muddy encounters).

Respect is contagious, and it has spread throughout MWC athletics. After years of being terrible-to-bad-to-mediocre, the Eagle men's basketball team broke through last season with a winning campaign and is showing signs of becoming a traditional Capital Athletic Conference power.

The MWC baseball team remains strong after another great season in '97, and is looking forward to a successful spring of CAC dominance.

MWC volleyball, though incredibly young this season, faired quite well. Rugby, after a slow start, finished very strong. And don't forget cross country, which set a new CAC record for most all-conference runners.

In all, MWC has had a remarkable number of all-CAC coaches in 1997 (Rod Wood-men's basketball, Stan Soper-cross country, Kurt Glaser-women's soccer, Roy Gordon-men's soccer, Tom Sheridan-baseball) and several others who were certainly deserving (volleyball coach Dee Conway comes to mind).

With good coaching comes stability, and with stability in college sports comes success. Why do Joe Paterno, Tom Osborne, and Bobby Bowden win big? They've been around, and they know how to win.

And they have talent, something MWC has been loaded with of late. The number of all-CAC picks has been staggering. Five in men's soccer. Seven in women's soccer. Four in field hockey, and 13 in cross

### BERMUDA SPORTS BY JOSH VANDYCK

quarterfinals, and the gents reached the final four. Both teams set school records for victories in a season.

Each team earned a top-five national ranking, and dominated most all-CAC teams.

When they lost, they lost to the big boys. Each team was beaten in the NCAA tournament only by the eventual national champion. When they won, they were simply dominating. The women, for example, shut out the opposition completely 15 times in 22 games.

It should also be noted that both squads accomplished these feats despite newcomers in soccer's most important position: goalkeeper. The women shifted senior Anne Wenthé to the spot, while the men relied on inexperienced sophomore J.T. Nino and junior Ed Burrier.

So what more can be said?

Well, how about the fact that both teams got to host playoff games deep into the NCAAs. The men got to host not only the final four, but also the very national championship game.

That means respect.

That's what MWC soccer has, and that's what brings the school home tournament games. (Not to mention the outstanding job done by the grounds crew, who

see BERMUDA, page 7

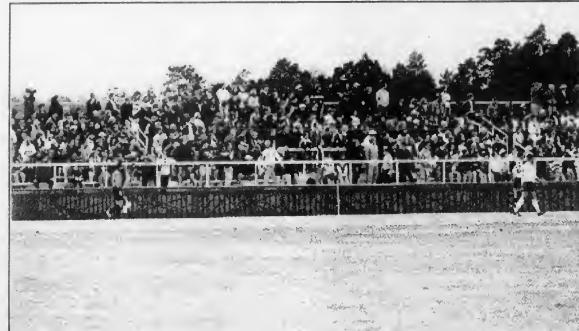


Photo Courtesy Tom Dozier  
Despite Thanksgiving break, a packed house was on hand at the Battleground Friday to see Mary Washington battle Wheaton in the Final Four.

### ALL-CAC PERFORMERS

#### Field Hockey

Angie Saulsbury, Erin Broome, Heather Carter, Ellen A. Smith

#### Volleyball

Lisa Skaggs, Hilary Clark

### ALL-REGION PERFORMER

#### Cross Country

Jaime Donaruma

## Bullet Top Tens



### NCAA COLLEGE FOOTBALL

1. Michigan
2. Nebraska
3. Florida State
4. Tennessee
5. Ohio State
6. North Carolina
7. UCLA
8. Florida
9. Washington State
10. Kansas State

### THE WORST TEAMS IN THE NFL

1. Indianapolis
2. Chicago
3. Oakland
4. St. Louis
5. Cincinnati
6. New Orleans
7. Baltimore
8. Arizona
9. Atlanta
- 10(t). Carolina
- 10(t). Washington

## SOCCER page 6

going in.

This was the farthest the men's soccer team had ever gone in the history of the college. Their final record, 21-3-1, was the best ever achieved.

"We had a very successful season. At the first practice of the year, no one thought we'd get this far. There's nothing to be upset about getting this close to a national championship," said senior forward Ryan Forbrich.

"It's nice to go out like this senior year," added Gillan. "I don't know another group of guys I would rather play with."

Coach Gordon had this to say after the loss.

"All the credit to the players for tremendous heart. They recognized that we're not always the most technically best team on the field, but they compensated with their heart and intensity. Never say die. They kept fighting and fighting."

## BERMUDA page 6

country.

What does all this mean? It means that while the BOV and people like myself talk about football, MWC athletics are among the best in the nation, period. So regardless of what the new name of the college (or university?) is, MWC sports will be on solid footing for a long time to come.

## MWC Fall Season Records

Men's Soccer	21-3-1
Women's Soccer	18-2-2
Volleyball	22-12
Field Hockey	11-10
Women's X-Country	CAC Champs
Men's X-Country	CAC Runner-up

***The Bullet Wishes  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## RUN-D.M.C.

### "Do Their Thing" in the Great Hall

By Ryan A. MacMichael  
Bullet Staff Writer

At the Live Aid benefit concert in 1985, hip-hop group Run-D.M.C. played for over 2 billion viewers worldwide. On Sunday, Nov. 23, they played for about 800 people in Mary Washington College's Great Hall, and the trio managed to keep just as high an intensity level.

"You're going to get mainly classic stuff, but we do a lot of routines that everybody will be real happy with," (Reverend) Run promised in an interview just minutes before the show.

"We got a dynamic, energetic show," he added.

Yeah, right, I thought, looking at the exhausted pair of individuals next to me—these two played in Denver and Los Angeles the past two days and just flew in a couple of hours ago.

The fantastic opening act for the hip-hop trio was the New Orleans jazz/funk/soul band The Dirty Dozen (formerly The Dirty Dozen Brass Band) who performed songs like "Feet Don't Fail Me Now," a track which is still stuck in my head a week-and-a-half later. Shortly after, Jam Master Jay came out and introduced Run and D.M.C. for a show that at times defied words.

But this high energy performance is what Run-D.M.C. has perfected after hundreds of such shows. Representing a decade of groundbreaking hip-hop music, the group performed everything from 1983's "Here We Go" to 1993's "Ooh, What Ya Gonna Do?," interspersing commentary and improvised tastes of their new material, due out next year.

Despite having had a raspy voice during many performances in the last year, Run performed with a power in his voice that demanded attention. Rather, it was (Deacon) D.M.C. who was pressing his vocal cords to the limit, squeaking as frequently as a mouse during puberty.

In addition, many members of the crowd near the stage threw caution to the wind, pushing and shoving so much that people had to move to the outside just to the enjoy the show. And somehow, some members of the audience thought that crowd-surfing was something to do during a hip-hop show.

"It made me mad I couldn't enjoy the concert because they were acting foolish," said sophomore Arquay Harris.

Fortunately, Run and D.M.C.'s stage presence overshadowed any vocal or crowd problems that may have occurred. The group showed that experience is vital for an attention-grabbing live performance, something missing in most modern hip-hop shows.

Jam Master Jay, the group's DJ from their inception, provided live beats with just two turntables and a mixer, the way hip-hop was performed 15 years ago.

While rappers from Chicago seem to have a knack for getting in the Guinness Book of World Records under "fastest rapper," Run had a couple moments where he flew through a set of lyrics like a whirlwind. Once was during their 1986 classic "Peter Piper" from the release "Raising Hell." The other was during a new piece of Run's, sounding like a mix between Chicago's Twista and Cleveland's Bone Thugs 'n' Harmony.

This year has seen the return of many classic hip-hop artists like EPMD and Rakim. Run feels it's just what the doctor ordered for today's hip-hop fans.

"People [like that] are always in popular demand: the Run-D.M.C., the EPMD, they want that," Run said. "Regardless of what's going on, they want that diversity."

Some members of the audience thought that Run-D.M.C. had disappeared and was making a comeback, but the crew was been around touring quite a bit recently as well as working on a new project due out in 1998.

The show ended with Cheryl Lynn's "Got to Be Real" and an old-school party-chant by Run-D.M.C. and the audience: a fitting end to a wonderful piece of music history. But Run-D.M.C. wouldn't have it any other way.

"We always do what we always did. We never had to sway this way or that way," said DMC.

"We do what was done before rap records were made: Jay DJs and we rap. Regardless of whatever happens in the industry or whatever happens with videos, we always going to be here doing our thing."



Karen Pearlman/Bullet

Despite the foolish behavior of some neophyte stage-divers in the audience, Run-D.M.C.'s Run (above), unperturbed, performed powerfully at last week's show.



Karen Pearlman/Bullet  
Screaming fans (not of the crowd-surfing variety) rock out to Run-D.M.C.'s attention grabbing performance in the Great Hall on Sunday, Nov. 23.

## The Film Fiend

### Dissects "Starship Troopers"

By James Mirabello

Bullet Film Critic

#### The Equation

Well, I'll be honest. I'm not a mathematical genius. But, I do know one basic principle. The whole is equal to the sum of its parts. That's easy enough, I suppose.

2+2=4.

Theoretically, this law is supposed to apply to all things, including movies. Theoretically. In cases such as "The Ghost and the Darkness," the sum of the parts was much greater than the whole.

"The Ghost and the Darkness" had dream team quality talent working on it. William Goldman is considered one of the best writers in Hollywood, having created such classics as "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "The Princess Bride."

Vilmos Zsigmond is a legendary cinematographer. Jerry Goldsmith is one of the greatest composers to have

ever lived, and Stan Winston was one of the special effects men behind "Jurassic Park." Michael Douglas and Val Kilmer are both capable and popular actors.

But, I get confused when it comes to this next point. If the producers spent this much money amassing such an array of brilliance, why skimp on the director? Stephen Hopkins is a capable, but not wonderful director. And as a result, the audiences were given a capable and fairly good adventure.

However, with all the talent involved, "The Ghost and the Darkness" could have become a classic. Granted, the director is one of the most important pieces to the puzzle. You can have all the brilliance you want, but if you have a poopoo director, the movie will be bad. "The Ghost and the Darkness" wasn't bad, though. Hell, I kind of like the film. It just should have been better.

2+2=3.

The sum of the parts was greater than the whole. Now, two days ago, I saw a little film called "Starship Troopers" and I liked it.

see FIEND, page 9

## Check Out WMWC!

Listen to 91.5fm WMWC through exam week for rebroadcasts of "A Holiday On the Edge '97"—3 hours of holiday music—as well as classic shows from this past year, and exclusive interviews with Indigo Girls, Run-D.M.C., Spearhead, Not By Chance, and more!

## Local Music Scene

George Street Grill  
Friday: Sinister Grin

Saturday: Dr. Smith

Sante Fe Grill  
Friday: Jimmy & the Blue Dogs

Saturday: Jimmy & the Blue Dogs

Sunday: Jimmy & the Blue Dogs

## Coming Attractions...

- **Through Thursday, Dec. 4:** Art Exhibition, "Push the Process: Senior Studio Art Major Exhibition II," DuPont Gallery, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. **Free.**
- **Friday, Dec. 5:** Pops Concert, Mary Washington College-Community Orchestra; Dodd Auditorium, 8 p.m. **Free.**
- **Saturday, Dec. 6:** Holiday Open House, James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library, 5:30-8 p.m. **Free.** 654-1043.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 10:** Holiday Open House, Belmont Gari Melchers Estate & Memorial Gallery, 6:30-8:30 p.m. **Free.** 654-1015.
- **Through Sunday, Feb. 15:** Art Exhibition, "The Body and Gender," Ridderhof Martin Gallery. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday, 1-4 p.m. **Free.**

**ZEALAND** page A4

Zealand. Yet she did not find her schoolwork difficult. Smith only needed a C average to pass, and in New Zealand students only need to achieve a 50 to get a C.

Smith had ample time to spend with her kiwi flatmates who often had flat warming parties among the different residences. Everyone threw parties with themes, such as Hawaiian or '70s.

Smith and her flatmates also went on food shopping sprees every Sunday. Each flatmate contributed \$30 to buy enough food to last for the week.

"Every night someone would make dinner

for the whole flat," Smith said.

Smith said there were a few subtle differences between the Americans and their kiwi flatmates. For example, she was teased for wearing sneakers with jeans. In New Zealand, students believe sneakers are only acceptable when worn with sweat pants.

"They said, 'You're such an American,'" Smith said. "They just made fun of us so badly."

However, Smith was able to tease her kiwi flatmates about their accents, which she found to be strange.

"It kind of mixes Australian, English and a weird variety of their own," Smith said.



**Felicity Smith** on a swing bridge, the site of 340-foot bungee jump.

**FRANCE** page A1

However, not all the people Lewis met were nice. She said many of the French are "anti-American." Lewis said she thought some of them may feel threatened on the influence America has had on France's lifestyle. The local McDonald's and many of the clothes were American.

"They feel like they've been infiltrated by Americans," she said.

Many French citizens would not talk to Lewis once they discovered she was American. Lewis said she remembers several times when she would be talking to people in French for 20 minutes, yet as soon as they found out what country she came from, they would walk away.

Lewis was also teased for the way that she speaks English. The French say Americans talk through their noses and do not find it appealing.

"They say that Americans sound like ducks," Lewis said.

When she frequented bars, Lewis said many of the French wanted to debate American politics. They argued that the United States does not know how to effectively deal with poverty. They also found America's two-party system silly. France has five political parties for voters to choose from.



**Ashley Lewis** and her boyfriend, Guillaume Fey, whom she met in France.

"That's what they want to talk about when you go to a bar," she said.

Lewis said the bars in town and the discos just outside of town were popular places for hanging out. The discos stay open until 5 a.m. Lewis recalled one in particular where the disco had a separate bar for whiskey, tequila and vodka, in addition to a huge dance floor, strobe lights and a giant video screen.

The music, however, was not as up-to-date. Although American music has its influence in France, a popular hit does not make it to France until it has already been in America for one month.

*For more information concerning the study abroad program, contact Connie Gianulis, director of international programs, at 654-1010.*

*Photographs for this issue are courtesy of Felicity Smith, Ashley Lewis, Katy Sullivan and Jeremy Blain.*

*Cover photo: Mt. Cook and Mt. Tasman located in Mt. Cook National Park, New Zealand. At 12,317 feet, Mt. Cook is the highest peak in the country.*



**Katy Sullivan** (center) poses with her African host family.

**AFRICA** page A3

resided in huge, nice-looking houses. Although they only made up 15 percent of the population, they owned most of the money.

The whites seemed racist and arrogant toward Sullivan. She said the blacks, despite their financial inequalities, were much more friendly.

"They were the nicest people I've ever met in my whole life. They really welcomed us into their country," Sullivan said.

Sullivan remembers celebrating Halloween with her African friends, who do not usually recognize the day. Sullivan had previously gotten into several debates with three male friends who believe that the black men are superior to women and wives should be subservient to their husbands. Sullivan disagreed.

When Sullivan and her friends celebrated Halloween, the trio came to the party dressed as women.

"It kind of just became a joke after awhile," Sullivan said.

Shopping was cheaper in Africa, Sullivan said. One American dollar equaled four "rand." Although prices were approximately the same as in the United States, the exchange rate allowed Sullivan to purchase items, particularly American fashions, for less.

Yet Sullivan said she enjoyed driving across the desert more than anything else. She found the miles and miles of barren land captivating.

However, she was not totally cut off from civilization. Sullivan said her mother kept in touch with her frequently through mail.

"My mom wrote me a letter everyday. We got all the news from her," she said.

# ISSUES

## *Far From Fredericksburg*



## STUDY ABROAD

**In this issue:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Four Mary Washington students** \_\_\_\_\_

**recall their experiences while studying in other countries.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Photographs display sites and scenery from Africa, England, France and New Zealand.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Articles by Jenine M. Zimmers, Bullet Associate Editor and Issues Editor**

# NEW ZEALAND

Last semester, senior Felicity Smith jumped 340 feet down into a huge canyon in New Zealand. The location is the largest bungee jumping site in the southern hemisphere.

For her first bungee jumping experience, Smith found herself at a wooden swing bridge with her feet tied moments before she fell head first into the canyon. The bungee cord stopped her falling body just in time. Smith said she was only about 15 or 20 feet from the rocky bottom of the canyon.

"It was so scary. I started crying and shaking when I got down," Smith said.

Smith and four other American students all bungee jumped for the first time in New Zealand. Smith said she felt that she had to go through with it for the experience.

Yet Smith did not spend her entire stay in New Zealand as a daredevil. She roomed with four other students in a flat, the term for house. Three of her housemates were "kiwis," or New Zealanders.

Every weekend, the group went "tramping" through the mountains.

"They have tons of nature trails," Smith said.

The group would stay out for the entire weekend and spend the nights in huts along the way. The huts had no water or electricity, and the students had to cook their food over a fire. Smith said a lot of the time they boiled water and made pasta.



Each person carried a backpack with food, water and supplies to get him through the weekend. Smith said they ate a lot of trail mix and Cadbury Energy Bars, which were candy bars of dark chocolate intended to provide a person with extra energy.

"We just bought bars and bars of that," she said. While tramping, the group encountered natural springs, or steamy, muddy pools that turned into makeshift jacuzzis. Smith said she would put on a T-shirt and shorts and sit in the mud as she gazed at the snow-covered mountains.

During the week, Smith worked toward earning 18 credits from the University of Otago. Smith took courses on the history and anthropology of New Zealand, page A4



# FRANCE

While many Mary Washington students spend their 21st birthdays roughing the bars of Fredericksburg, senior Ashley Lewis spent the momentous occasion in France, where she studied for one year.

Lewis said she was initially worried that her 21st birthday would not be the same in another country. The drinking age in France is only 14.

"Twenty-one to them is nothing," she said.

Yet Lewis said she had a great time anyway. After a party in her apartment, Lewis drank until she felt sick, and then proceeded to vomit over the side of her balcony. Unfortunately for Lewis, her landlady's car was parked directly below the balcony.

After discovering the vomit the next day,

the landlady asked Lewis if she had thrown a wild party the night before.

"I didn't say anything," Lewis said. "She never knew it was me."

Despite the incident, Lewis still managed to earn 28 credits from the University of Montpellier where she studied all year. She shared an apartment with Jessica Kiekie, another Mary Washington student who chose to study abroad in France.

Down the street from their apartment, Lewis recalls a prostitute who was always on the corner. Guillaume Fey, Lewis's boyfriend whom she met in France last Halloween, would always be propositioned by the woman when he came to visit Lewis, her landlady's car was parked directly below the balcony.

Lewis said the attitude of women in France is different from women in the United States. She said

she saw women who were overweight wearing extremely tight clothes and halter tops, yet looking good in the clothes because they appeared more confident.

"They're really comfortable with their own physical appearances," she said.

Lewis said she met people of many other countries in addition to France. After coming home from an evening out, she said she would recall having met people from six or seven different nations. Yet everyone would communicate together in French.

"We'd all be in the same conversation together, but none of us were speaking a language that was native to us," she said.

see FRANCE, page A4



Clockwise from top:  
A herd of sheep create a roadblock on a New Zealand street.

Senior Felicity Smith (bottom) prepares for a flat warming party with her kiwi flatmates.

Senior Ashley Lewis spends a quiet moment on the beaches of Normandy.

# Africa

For several weeks while she was in Africa, junior Katy Sullivan lived in a traditional African hut with no running water or electricity. Every two weeks, she and her host family had to travel two hours by donkey to collect water for the entire village.

"I didn't mind it at all. It was like camping," Sullivan said. Until she got sick.

The village she stayed in used the water to make, among other things, non-alcoholic beer. Every in the village drank the beer. But Sullivan's body was not used to it, and suddenly life in a hut seemed rougher than camping.

"I would have dreams about a shower and a toilet," she said.

Sullivan bathed in a fenced-in area where her host family heated water for her. The source of the water was a small river, which she said was probably polluted.

Sullivan participated in the study abroad program by spending a semester in Namibia, Africa. Traditional schooling was replaced by "experimental learning," and Sullivan found herself traveling around to study the environment, agriculture and the African community.

"We weren't in the classroom at all," said Sullivan, who earned 16 credits.

Sullivan also learned the basics of speaking Oshiwambo, even though English is the country's official language since the end of apartheid three years ago.

She spent half of her trip living in the huts and the other half in an urban community. The switch in living conditions helped Sullivan to see the differences between blacks and whites in Africa.

Black people lived in shacks. They could not go out at night. They had to be extremely careful with their water supply. Sullivan could hardly believe their impoverished living conditions.

White people, on the other hand, owned pools and ran sprinklers. They

see AFRICA, page A4

# ENGLAND

Senior Jeremy Blain discovered one thing he really missed when he studied abroad in Bath, England for a semester: 7-Eleven.

"In England, at 5 p.m. everything shuts down. You can't get a bite to eat past 5 p.m.," Blain said.

Blain said he learned to appreciate the 24 hours a day that 7-Eleven is open here in the states.

"At four in the morning, you can just go there and get a donut, and you're good to go," he said.

This was one example of a "little difference."

Blain noticed while he was in England that with the exception of some minor factors, England was a lot like the United States, he said. He was still able to go to businesses such as the Gap, Bath and Beyond and Burger King.

Unfortunately, the same things in England are a bit more expensive. Blain said a plain hamburger in England from Burger King costs \$1.50.

Yet the only place Blain could visit past 5 p.m. were the local pubs.

"I basically went to a pub every night. That's how we got to know all our neighbors," he said.

Blain was only 20 years old during his trip, but the legal drinking age in England is only 18.

"It's loosely enforced. They don't card you," he said.

When he was not at the pubs, Blain studied British and western European government as part of an "island program," independent of a specific university. Blain earned 16 credits by attending four two-hour classes a week. Only eight to 10 students were in each class.

"It was an interesting experience learning about a different culture even

"Whenever we went to a city we could pretty much call up any youth hostel we wanted and get a room," he said.

Blain said his trip was successful overall.

"I had a great time. I had a lot of different experiences that I wouldn't have had if I stayed at Mary Washington," he said.



Clockwise from top: Junior Katy Sullivan travels by donkey for water.

Senior Jeremy Blain (second from left) spends time with friends in a popular England Pub.

Blain and a fellow student tour Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of Winston Churchill.

# If You Had Your Way, What Would You Re-Name the College?

Photos and Interviews by Karen Pearlman



"Jefferson University."



"I like the name as is."



"I'd leave it the way it is, because Mary is overshadowed by George too much. She needs some recognition."



"Middle Class White Girl University."



"Rappahannock University."

—Silvia Pavia, senior

—Sabine Osceola, senior

—Rebecca Johnson, junior

—Danielle Richardson, sophomore

—Greg Dimino, senior

# Piping Hot!

## Eagle Pipe Band Hits the Right Notes

By Erin Rodman  
Bullet Staff Writer

Every Sunday evening a cacophony of bagpipes, drums and stomping feet waft down from the Lee Hall Ballroom. What's all the commotion? Mary Washington's Scottish Pipe Band is having their weekly session.

The Eagle Pipe Band got its start with a membership of three, which included the instructor, Ray Scott, chairperson of the chemistry department, who has been teaching bagpiping lessons since last year to students. He invited his two students, Erin Brown and Rob Martin, to be a part of a pipe band he wanted to start.

After recruiting a drummer, Walt "Mac" McIntyre, the group of four had their first performance at the 1997 MWC graduation.

"It started off as the Fredericksburg Piping Club with a couple of my students and me," Scott said. "And we pulled together for last year's graduation."

"It was great and fun we did well as just a pick-up band and that's how we got this band started in the fall," McIntyre said.

"It was not my best but it was my first time really playing in public and first time playing with other people," said sophomore bagpiper Brown.

Brown heard about Scott's bagpipe playing from an MWC alumnus while playing at a summer bagpiping course in Norfolk. Brown received a scholarship to attend a second bagpiping camp in Pennsylvania later that summer and taught herself a little piping in high school. When she came to MWC, she started taking lessons from Scott.

With three pipers and a drummer, the Eagle Pipe Band was born.

President Anderson showed his full support for the Pipe Band, saying it would be great for the college.

"He [Scott] has done an awful lot of work on this and I'm excited about what he's doing," Anderson said at last month's Board of Visitors meeting. Anderson added that an account has been set up for the band to use as well.

Junior Rob Martin has been in the band since last year and has been playing the bagpipes for three years. Martin hopes the Pipe Band will continue to flourish in the coming years and says it is definitely good for the school.

"I like the cultural aspect [of the band]," said Martin, who is of Scottish heritage. "We are hoping to

create a dynasty. Something we can leave behind us when we are gone."

McIntyre, an M.A.L.S. graduate student at MWC, has been drumming since the early 1960s but only started Scottish drumming in 1980s. He uses a special Scottish snare which is unlike snare drums used in American music. He is also the instructor for the drumming section of the pipe band and hopes to be a part of the band for a long time.

"I will do this as long as I am a part of the community," said McIntyre, who stated that the rudimentary percussion skills of the drummers are good.

The drummers and pipers create the music and the dancers complete the picture as a third contingent to the burgeoning pipe band.

Meagan Burgess is the dance instructor who currently coaches the 10 coed non-students that are the visually pleasing aspect of the band.

***We are hoping to create a dynasty. Something we can leave behind us when we are gone.***

—Rob Martin,  
Bagpiper

Burgess has been dancing since six and has been competing for the past 20 years. When she lived in Colorado, Burgess won Scottish dance competitions such as the Rocky Mountain Championship and the South Western Championship several years in a row.

Ten years ago she was certified in highland dancing, which requires several exams, and received her membership to the world governing body of highland dancing as well as a full membership to the highland dancing teachers association.

None of the dancers are MWC students and Burgess encourages students to come out and join.

"The technique is very much like gymnastics or ice skating," Burgess said. "They are learning the basic traditional Scottish dancing."

However, competitions require the musical and dancing aspects of pipe bands to enter separately and as individuals.

"The dancers contribution with the band has nothing to do with competition," Burgess said, adding that it's a mostly recreational outlet. "We are mostly concerned with

putting on a really good show and dancing well together."

To add to the unity of the group, uniform ideas were just announced. Scott spoke at the recent BOV meeting to introduce the band's choice of tartan plaid for their upcoming uniforms, which includes kilts for everyone. The tartan colors are blue, gray and white which Scott chose to match MWC school colors.

Along with the tartan uniforms, Scott hopes the college bookstore will stock up on tartan covered products as well.

"We think a tartan pillow or tie would be fun to sell," said Scott.

The band will perform competitively at the national level in the Highland Games over the summer competing in states such as Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia.

"We will try and go to all of them," said Scott. "It depends how many students are in the area for the summertime."

Currently the band has approximately 30 pipers, drummers, and dancers consisting of community members and students and the plans for the future of the Eagle Pipe Band are ambitious and plentiful.

"There is no school credit for it yet but who knows what will happen," Scott said of the possibility that members could receive one credit for a practical class.

"We do hope to allow one hour credit per semester to students as well as offering clinics for all kinds of Scottish instruments in the summer," McIntyre said.

A pipe band is a rare thing, said, and there are only about a dozen recognized college pipe bands in the nation. But the Eagle Pipe Band is ready to be recognized.

"We hope to be not just a band but a cultural experience for students and the community," McIntyre said.

"I hope it'll continue on and be with Mary Washington for a long time," Brown said.

For those who are unlearned on the art of Scottish dancing and music, membership is open to all, no matter the amount of experience or lack thereof.

"If you need to learn, we'll give you instruction," said Scott. "My goal is to have it set up so that somebody can be a functional performer at performances a year after having just walked in the door."

The Eagle Pipe Band will give a brief performance on Friday, Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium at the Pops Concert for the Orchestra. Admission is free.

## FIEND

page 8  
TROOPERS

Many of my friends do not want to see this because it looks silly. Some critics accuse it of being nothing but a gore-fest and a pro-Nazi propaganda film. Other critics love it. Other friends of mine love it. Personally, I liked it a lot. To see why, you really need to look at the pieces.

### The Plot

I am not sure where to begin. Perhaps a plot would be in order. In a utopian future, Johnny Rico (Casper Van Dien) and friends sign up for military service. Most of his buddies volunteer because service is required in order to gain citizenship rights. Johnny, however, signs up to stay close to his girlfriend, Carmen (Denise Richards).

Once in training camp, Carmen begins to succumb to the sexual advances of her co-pilot, Zander (Patrick Muldoon). Meanwhile, in a different camp, Dizzy Flores (Dina Meyer) makes attempts to win the heart of Johnny. Can we say "Beverly Hills 90210"? Wait! We can, because the whole cast was actually on "90210"! Holy coincidence, Batman! So, the first half of the film is full of training sessions and soap opera, and then the war with the bugs begins.

***The Director (or, Of Tasteful Sex Scenes and Over-the-Top Gore)***

Now, the director, Paul Verhoeven is an interesting director. He's made great films ("Total Recall") and he has made some of the worst ("Showgirls"). I think "Troopers" is a step in a right direction after that atrocious sex-romp. As always, Verhoeven goes way over the top with the blood. This might be one of the goriest films I have ever seen.

Again, there is a sex scene. But, it is surprisingly tasteful which is downright shocking from the man who made "Showgirls." For the most part, his direction is tight and well done, even if he does have trouble getting performances from his amateur stars. Hell, I guess ol' Paul just knows how to do sci-fi better than sex.

### A Final Note

It is important to mention one last thing. Many critics see this as a pro-Nazi film. I just do not understand why. For one thing, the government was taken directly from the book, so the critics blaming Verhoeven are ill-informed—though I will admit some of the costumes are unsettlingly close to the Gestapo's.

The book was written in the 1950s, and was a commentary on the political situation at the time. Due to the Soviet Union no longer existing, the commentary is no longer as obvious, but it is still there. The government is not seen in a perfect light. It has its flaws and advantages.

In the end, it is not the administrative system that saves the day. It is the individual. It is the human. The government is not being glorified. The government just exists. What's being glorified in Verhoeven's twisted little way is the human spirit.

### The Answer

So, these are the parts. Come on, kids, let's add them together and see what we get. Average acting. Good special effects. Cheesy script. Fair direction. Dina Meyer (there's a big plus). A lot of blood. Great battles. Good music. Hmnn...

Occasionally, the sum of the parts can end up being less than the whole. "Starship Troopers" somehow pulls this off. Despite the cheesy lines, despite some strange acting, despite everything, this movie pulls through and makes you like it. Everything good overwhelms everything bad. And I know all the things that are had in this movie, but I just can't help saying it is good. It's great. Go see it.

2+2=5.

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## The Movie Game

Simply link movie actors through their co-stars, like so:  
(Remember - connections that involve TV in any way do not count)

Here are this week's Movie Game matches:

This one is pretty easy:

**Vince Vaughn and Jane Fonda**

Here's one that's a little harder:

**Peter O'Toole and Stockard Channing**

Do you have any matches you would like to see in the Bullet? Make up your own and send them to box 604 with the solutions. This week's solutions were provided by Jen Maleski and Mike McKenna.

### Heather Graham and Wynona Ryder

**Heather Graham** - Burt Reynolds (Boogie Nights); Burt Reynolds - Jon Voight (Deliverance); Jon Voight - Eric Stoltz (Anaconda); Eric Stoltz - Cher (Mask); Cher - **Wynona Ryder** (Mermaids).

### George Clooney and Molly Ringwald

**George Clooney** - Nicole Kidman (The Peacemaker); Nicole Kidman - Matt Dillon (To Die For); Matt Dillon - Emilio Estevez (The Outsiders); Emilio Estevez - **Molly Ringwald** (The Breakfast Club).

Send your solutions, and puzzle suggestions to the Bullet at box 604 - Just write it down and drop it in the Campus Mail slot with our number. Next week we will print the answers and give two more exciting movie matches. Oh, and don't forget to put your name on it!

**Study Hard**

**The Bullet Would Like To Wish Everyone Luck On Upcoming Finals**

**We'll Be Back Next Semester!**

## POLITICS page 3

work directly to the Board of Visitors or the concerned groups.

I would like to see a change in the means for changing things about this school. I have my doubts about whether or not this will come about, since the administration has no more interest in instating an effective means for effecting student opinion than it does in listening to student opinion.

In the three years I have been at Mary Washington College, the above-mentioned decisions have helped to reduce what is unique about Mary Washington, and make Mary Washington more like any other school.

I was happy with the college I began attending in 1995, but I don't know if I would be if I had to start all

over again four years later.

I would hope that if there was some way for student concerns to be effectively addressed by the administration, this situation might change.

*Andrew Mefford is a junior philosophy major.*

## ONLINE page 3

In a recent survey conducted by Mary Washington College marketing students, approximately 50 percent of students feel uncomfortable purchasing products over the Internet.

This is an understandable position, since credit card fraud is all too common in today's society.

According to Spree.com, the safety and confidentiality of all purchases are a major concern, especially when they involve the use of a credit card.

Spree.com uses Secure Socket Layering, the most advanced system available for encrypting and securing credit card transactions.

They also offer the Spree Guarantee for credit card purchases: They guarantee that transaction procedures

are followed and should any unauthorized purchases be made on your card, Spree.com will refund the amount of purchases not covered by your credit card company.

For those students who are still uncomfortable buying products online, Spree.com also offers an 800 number that enables students to order as if they were ordering from a catalogue.

This service, however, is not for everybody. Those people who buy used books at the bookstore will not save money by ordering new books from Spree.com. Students forced to buy new books, however, will save money online.

Those who like to walk out of the

store with their books in hand would not enjoy this service because it takes between two and five days to deliver the purchases. For students who do not open their books until halfway through the semester, however, this service is almost perfect.

Although big savings are not guaranteed for everyone, it is worth looking into.

If you can only save \$5 a book but you buy ten books, you have saved yourself or your parents \$50.

This service should be available for the Spring 1998 semester. For more information, contact me via e-mail at [mpaol27k@mwc.edu](mailto:mpaol27k@mwc.edu).

*Michael Paolino is a senior business major.*

## LETTERS page 3

Fredericksburg.

In addition to the restaurant and bar, Spanky's will open the two party rooms located downstairs for more entertainment. The front room has two pool tables, and a DJ will be located in the back room.

Blount is also working with other businesses around Fredericksburg. He is currently encouraging local stores

to help the six college students by donating gift certificates and everyday necessities. Blount is enthusiastic about the upcoming event and encourages everyone to come join in the fun.

Friends of the six victims of the Thanksgiving day fire are currently working together to support and lend a hand during these rough times.

Unfortunately, the majority of their personal belongings can not be salvaged and the apartment will be rebuilt in time for the next school year.

Any contribution is not too small, and help is always welcome.  
*Jenna Cassidy*  
senior

## The Bullet Wishes Everyone A Safe And Happy Winter Break

## COMING SOON...

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# Administration Considering A Restriction On Freshman Parking

By Lauren Nichols  
Bullet Staff Writer

The Battleground parking complex is synonymous with freshman complaints about the long walk to their cars. The discussion of eliminating freshman parking may soon leave freshman with nothing to complain about.

Recently, a senate motion suggested that parking for freshman be eliminated.

"The motion was brought forth as a solution to the fact that many students leave on weekends causing Mary Washington to be thought of as a suitcase school. It was also considered to be a solution to the lack of on-campus parking," said Shannon Hutchinson, sophomore senate representative.

Without cars, freshman would more likely stay on campus during the weekends.

"I had a car as a freshman, and I left a lot. I didn't meet people until I began to stay. There's a lot to do; you just have to stick around and not hop in a car and go off to UVa," said Chris Hitzelberger, co-chair of the rules and regulations committee of senate, who first made the motion in senate to eliminate freshman parking.

Although the senate voted down the motion, Wes Heuvel, vice president of senate, explained that it seems "fairly inevitable in the future."

An administrative committee has been formed which has researched the repercussions of eliminating freshman parking.

"Look around campus and see how the space is being used up. Each freshman class is getting larger, and new buildings are being added. We need to find a solution,"

said Ed Hegmann, professor of health and physical education and a member of the administrative committee.

The administrative committee's first step is to investigate other schools' parking regulations.

"We are looking at other institutions that restrict underclassmen parking and investigating how the elimination of freshman parking would affect us, not that it will be the deciding factor. We just want to see what other institutions are doing," Hegmann said.

By restricting freshman parking, the Battleground could hold upperclass on-campus residents' cars and make extra spaces for commuting students closer to campus.

"Many parents are surprised when I tell them on a tour that freshman are allowed to have cars. Apparently at most other schools they visited, it isn't an option to have a car the first year," said Jocelyn Walton, a Washington guide.

Some students do not feel Mary Washington should be compared with some other schools that do not have freshman parking.

"Sure, you can compare our school to UVa or JMU neither of whom have freshman parking, but UVa also has a bookstore that's like Walmart. Yeah, you can walk to Giant or even Spanky's if you really wanted to, but who does," said Lindsay Morgan, secretary of the executive cabinet.

Other students feel that freshman with or without cars will still find a way to leave campus on weekends.

"I have a car and only go to the store on the weekends. My friends, who constantly spend the weekends elsewhere, always find a ride," said Karen Slotsky, freshman.



Karen Pearlman/Bullet

The Battleground parking lot may not be so packed with freshman cars in the future. The administration is investigating the possibility of prohibiting freshman cars on campus.

## PALMIERI page 1

J. Christopher Bill, professor of psychology, did not speak directly about the kind of man Palmieri was. Instead he told stories that he called the Harry Honeymoon stories.

Bill's first story concerned a 1965 Chevy Pickup. He and Palmieri were removing a stump from the ground. Once the two had pulled the stump from the ground, they wondered what to do with it.

Palmieri got that twinkle in his eye that Littlefield had talked about earlier and suggested that they drop the stump off at the physical plant at the college.

"He was pleased about that decision forever," Bill said.

Bill also told a story about Palmieri's patience. Once Bill and Palmieri had to return a gas grill to a store, and Palmieri was holding the grill in the back of the truck. The truck ran out of gas, and it started to rain.

According to Bill, Palmieri never complained. The two went to get gas in soda bottles and eventually made it to the store.

Clavio S. Ascoli, professor of modern foreign language, next spoke about Palmieri's continued pride in his Italian heritage. Ascoli said that Palmieri loved the works of Dante and Machiavelli and that he religiously studied the "Divine Comedy" during his life.

Denis Nissim-Sabat, professor of psychology, painted a more personal picture of his relationship with Palmieri. He compared their friendship to two pals growing up together.

"We grew up in the halls and on the lawns of the college," Nissim-Sabat said.

The two friends came to the college as young assistant professors together and survived tenure promotion. They also shared experiences as young parents raising children. Somewhere during those years, they formed a monthly poker game from which Palmieri would fill his breast pocket with money.

Timothy A. Crippen, professor of sociology and



Courtesy of Porter Blakemore

**Palmieri and Porter Blakemore take a second for a photo op before graduation.**

anthropology, spoke last about Palmieri's diverse interests ranging from art to hockey.

"He knew and appreciated many diverse things, and as a result I learned much from him," Crippen said.

Throughout the memorial service, many of the speakers alluded to Palmieri's honesty and integrity as one of his enduring principles. According to Crippen, these principles helped to form the basis of their friendship.

"In him I found a comrade and a confidante like no other," Crippen said.

Before Crippen offered his concluding remarks expressing the Palmieri family's sincere appreciation for the memorial service, another song, "The Rose" sung by Bette Midler, played for a very touched and enlightened crowd.

With final exams approaching, the six students are left with no books, notebooks or computers. They hoped to be exempt from final exams, DePinto said. However, the administration is only willing to grant incompletes for all their classes, allowing each student six to eight weeks to make up the work.

DePinto said he feels this is inappropriate.

"There is a time and a place for an exception to the rule and this is it," he said. "If their house burned down, I don't think they'd be in class the next day, and I wouldn't expect them to."

Nguyen said he feels that the administration is not being as understanding as he would have expected.

"The administration is very impersonal. This isn't a Virginia Tech. We came here because they care about students," Nguyen said.

According to Adrienne May, associate dean of academic services, a student, adviser or faculty member is allowed to request an incomplete. In extreme cases, students may receive incompletes in all their classes. For reasons of confidentiality, May was not at liberty to discuss individual cases.

Concerning total exemption for finals, professors are responsible for determining the amount of work a student needs to complete to get credit for a course, May said.

"A course needs to be completed to the satisfaction of the instructor," May said. She added that she cannot tell a professor how a student should be graded, although college policy states that every course should have some type of final exam or project.

May said that when she encounters a student with a request about a course, she imagines that five random professors and students are in the room. Before she makes a decision, she thinks about how those ten people would feel about the fairness of her decision.

"Certainly students who have serious problems... we try to address those problems," she said.

Nguyen and DePinto said that they feel as if they are being treated like "six kids who lost their backpacks."

"We're not looking for an excuse not to take our finals," DePinto said. "Our whole lives just burned down. Nobody has any idea how fired we are."

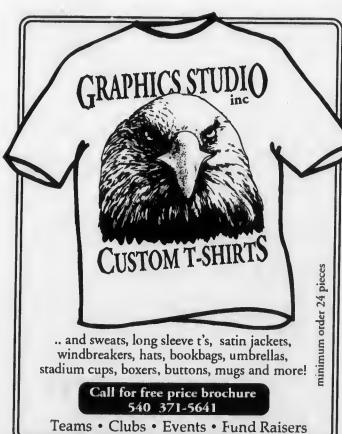
Hamlin said despite the incompletes he was granted, he plans to take his finals as scheduled. He said it would be too inconvenient to worry about this semester's classes in January when he has a whole new schedule to deal with.

"When I get back next semester I'd rather concentrate on the new stuff and put this semester behind me," he said.

DePinto said that a few administrators he has been caring and sympathetic. He said Cedric Rucker, associate dean for student activities, has been extremely kind.

"He's one of the very, very few administrators that has at least expressed remorse," DePinto said.

In addition, DePinto said Rick Surita, director of



residence life, has been supportive. Surita spoke to DePinto's father after the fire and offered to provide guaranteed housing for the six students next semester if they should choose to live on campus.

"That was a really great thing to do," DePinto said.

Hamlin, Wilmer and Bagley recently signed the lease on a three-bedroom apartment in Snowden, which they hope they will be able to move into next week. The three are currently staying with friends. DePinto, Nguyen and Gilbreath have yet to find a new place to live. For the time being, they are staying at the Hampton Inn.

Hamlin said not having a home of his own is difficult. "We have places to stay, but it's obviously not the same," he said.

According to Wilmer, friends have been very supportive by offering their homes and assisting in other ways.

"I've heard it from everyone that they're willing to help in any way they possibly can," he said.

DePinto said some friends have even been cooking dinner for them every night.

"Even finding food is a chore," he said.

Senior Jenna Cassidy said she is attempting to get free meal plans for the six students for the rest of the semester. Cassidy spoke to a junior Jessica Tenney, a student representative for the Wood Company, who is working on the idea.

"I want to help my friends through this time," she said. "I feel that we should all help and do everything we can. Every little effort from every person helps."

Tenney sent out e-mails on Dec. 3 to committee members to ask if they think providing some type of free meal plan is acceptable. Everyone who has responded so far is supportive of the idea.

"I think it would be a really good thing for us to do," Tenney said. Although she has to wait for approval from the Wood Company, Tenney said several managers have already expressed interest in helping the students.

Spanky's Restaurant on Caroline Street is planning a fundraiser for the students. According to Ed Blount, manager, on Thursday, Dec. 4, Spanky's will donate 10 percent of its proceeds to the students and will have several specials throughout the evening for college students. Blount said he hopes to raise \$2,000 with the event.

"I think a lot of businesses around the town take money from the college students, but don't really do anything in return to help them," said Blount, who added that donation boxes will be set up around the restaurant.